THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

June 30th—July 6th, 1983
Volume 18, Number 26

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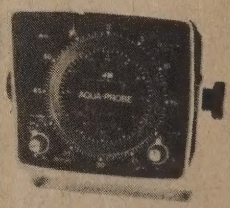

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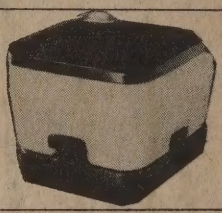

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THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

Volume 18, Number 26 June 30th, 1983

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ABOUT THE COVER:

The 24" Striped Bass Management Bill, approved by the Senate on Saturday, is on the verge of becoming a reality. The Govenor's signature is all that remains for the legislation to become law. Express your support for the bill to Governor Cuomo via letters, Mailgrams and phone calls. Please, do it today!

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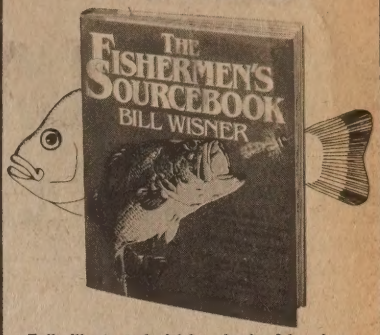

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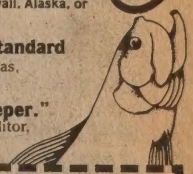

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by Bill Wisner

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Choose from a wide variety of fishing tackle and accessories, rods, reel, lines, boots, lures, and more—all priced below wholesale.

FISHING REPORT ON CHANNEL 6 CABLE

"Fishing Report," by Bill Von Hegel, Viacom Cable TV, Channel 6, Friday at 5:50PM and 11:30PM; Saturday at 8:50AM.

The report covers both the North and South Shore and the offshore waters. It is geared for the weekend fisherman.

TWELFTH ANNUAL SHARK TAG TOURNAMENT AT MONTAUK MARINE BASIN

Again this year, Montauk Marine Basin is having its 12th Annual Shark Tag Tournament on July 16th and 17th. The purpose of the tournament is not only to provide an opportunity for sportsmen to compete, but also to provide two $1,000 grants. One to be awarded to a student majoring in Marine Sciences at Southampton College, and the other to a graduate student at the Marine Sciences Research Center at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, New York.

The tournament will give several awards in many different categories. The prizes will consist of trophies and fishing tackle. There will be a men's division, women's division, junior (16 and under) division, plus special divisions; e.g., club award, hard luck award, peewee angler award, etc.

This year's entry fee will be $150 per boat; the same as in recent years. There will be no anglers' fee. Each boat entered will receive one slab of bait and one can of chum per day. Additional bait and chum will be available at prevailing rates. Docking facilities at the Marine Basin will be available to participants at prevailing rates. Due to limited spaces, berths will be assigned on a first come, first served basis.

A meeting of the anglers will be held Friday, July 15th at 7PM in the boat storage building just inside the main gate. Boat numbers, tournament badges and literature will be distributed and questions answered concerning the tournament rules. Jack Casey, "Mr. Shark," the biologist of the National Marine Fisheries Service Laboratory at Narragansett, Rhode Island, will be on hand to update information on his research programs, and to detail any special needs he and his research team has for specimens.

The Marine Basin will host a cocktail party at 8PM, immediately following the business meeting. Anglers, crews and other support personnel, wives, girl friends, etc., are invited to attend the affair which will include an open bar and hor d'oeuvres.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE UNDER WAY BY L.I.B.B.A.

Long Island Beach Buggy Association would like to encourage all beach users to join. We are a voluntary group of people, interested in the natural beach resources of Long Island. We work to secure voluntary acceptance of certain rules which will aid in the safety of beach users. We work for the proper conservation and ecology of water, beach and marine sport fisheries. We try to educate the misinformed, and teach those who now abuse our beaches. We provide assistance to our members, and the public, wherever and whenever we can. The bigger our membership is, the more influence we can have on local beach policy decisions in government.

Annual dues for adults is $13.50, while juniors between the ages of 16 and 18 pay $7. For more info on becoming a LIBBA member, phone (516) 878-1198 or (516) 472-1676.

ANGLERS' DEN WEAKFISH TOURNEY BIG AS EVER

Announcing the 5th Annual Anglers' Den Weakfish Tournament sponsored by Schaefer Beer, Humminbird, Mann's Baits, it is Long Island's largest tournament. Dates are July 8, 9, and 10. Starting at 6PM, July 8, around the clock to 6PM, July 10.

Prizes include: 1st place $750 cash, free mount and a $1000 white line recorder by Humminbird; 2nd place,, $350 cash; 3rd place, $200 cash, 4th place, Humminbird Flasher.

Additional prizes include: rods, reels, line, lures, etc., donated by Daiwa, Berkley, Atom, Acme, etc. Trophies for largest fish taken in three categories: Women, Children under 14, and Surf.

The prizes will be awarded on Sunday, July 10th immediately following the closing of the tournament at 6PM at a free clambake.

Entry fee is $5 per angler, which entitles you to the free clambake.

All fish must be taken on rod and reel in Long Island waters. Fish must be in edible condition. Mutilated fish not eligible; and judges' decisions are final with regard to questionable fish. Fish must be weighed in at Anglers' Den or at weigh boat which will be positioned off pink house in Mt. Sinai. Both will be available for weigh-ins

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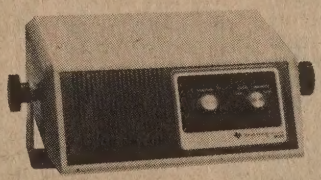

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For more information, see your nearest authorized Texas Instruments dealer. He is factory supported to provide you with installation, operating assistance, and service. Ask for a detailed brochure or write: Texas Instruments Incorporated, Marine Products, P.O. Box 405, MS3438, Lewisville, Texas 75067.

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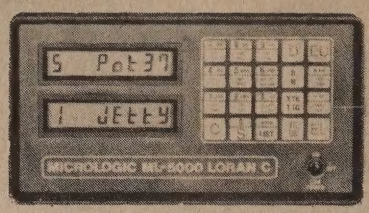

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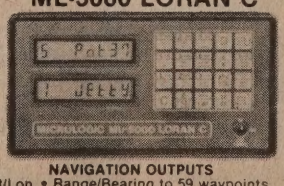

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around the clock during the tournament. Every person fishing a boat must be entered or a fish being weighed in will be disqualified.

All entries must be in by 6PM, July 8th and mail entries must be postmarked no later than July 6th. Limit one prize per angler (cash). In case of a tie, prize money will be split.

For further information, call Angler's Den, (516) 736-4040.

BELL FAMILY WINS THREE PRIZES IN FLOUNDER TOURNAMENT

Beautiful weather and good sea conditions set the stage for the Ocean City Marlin and Tuna Club's 1983 Flounder Tournament. Top honors in the women's division went to JoAnne Montagna, Linwood, fishing aboard "Dan-Gi-Do" with a 2 lb. 9 oz. flounder. Second place went to Andrea Bell aboard "Andrea Lee" with a 2 lb. 8 oz. fish and third place was won by Betty Comfort, aboard the "Happy Hookers" at 2 lb. 4 oz.

Doug Hadley, Cherry Hill, aboard "Stardust" took top prize for men with a 3 lb. 7 oz. flounder. Steve Gordon, aboard "Char-Min" won second place at 3 lbs. 6 oz. and George Bennethum, aboard "Big Ben" was awarded third prize with a 3 lb. 5 oz. fish.

In the 12-year and older category the winner was Rod Bell, Chester Springs, Pa. aboard "Andrea Lee" with a 2 lb. flounder. Second place went to J. DuBois, "Ruth E" at 1 lb. 14 oz. There was a third place tie with Steve McMurray, aboard "Four Sons" and Jib Bell on the "Andrea Lee" both landing 1 lb. 8 oz flounder.

The season continued with the Ladies Bluefish Tournament held on Saturday, June 18th.

BABYLON TUNA CLUB SET FOR 27TH ANNUAL TUNA, SHARK AND BILLFISH TOURNEY

The Babylon Tuna Club is pleased to announce its 27th Annual Tuna, Shark & Billfish Tournament to be held at the Babylon Town Dock on July 23 and 24, 1983. All boats entering must be at least 23 feet in length and equipped with VHF or CB radio.

Three-boat club teams will be competing for club prizes. Individual entries compete for individual prizes. Mooring facilities at the Babylon Town Dock will be available without cost to the tournament participants. Due to limited dock space, berths will be assigned on a first come, first served basis.

This year's entry fee is $125 per individual boat and $300 per three-boat team (club entry). There will be no additional angler fees. Bait and chum will NOT be provided; however, it will be readily available in the immediate vicinity of the dock, along with fuel.

A captains meeting will be held on Friday, July 22, at 8PM on the town dock. At this time, rules will be explained, questions answered, boat

numbers, patches and literature will be distributed. All awards will be made Sunday, July 24th at the dock after the weigh-in.

As in the past all fish will become the property of the tournament to be auctioned at the Town Dock with all proceeds donated to the **Association for the Help of Retarded Children.**

Saturday evening, following the weigh-in, an optional clambake will take place on the dock. It will be held under a covered patio with tables and chairs provided. The affair will be catered by B&B and will be open to all tournament participants and their guests.

Those interested in participating in this year's tournament can call George Huggler on (516) 666-3936, or write to the Babylon Tuna Club, Attention: George Huggler, P.O. Box 123, Babylon, NY 11702.

NEW BOOKLET FOR SEAFOOD LOVERS

Eat shark? If you haven't, you have been missing out on some nutritious, mouth-watering culinary treats. Shark meat is edible and can be used for everything from hors d'ouevres and cold salad to piping hot casseroles and other entrees. Beer Batter Shark, Stewed Shark, Mako Marsala and Cider Shark are just four among 30 shark recipes now available in **Capt. Bud's Shark & Seafood Cookery.**

The first cookbook of its kind, the new booklet contains 50 original Jersey Coast seafood recipes developed and tested by Forked River fisherman, Bud White. All the recipes have been sampled and tested by members of the Fish Hawks, a salt-water anglers' club in Lacey Township. Also included in the booklet are 20 recipes for crabmeat, flounder, scallops and shrimp.

Fishermen who throw back spiny dogfish (greyfish), sand shark, and other sharks are neglecting a valuable resource, according to Capt. Bud. All the shark meat originally used in Capt. Bud's recipes came from the often unwanted spiny dogfish, sand shark, plus blue, brown or mako sharks. In most cases, the meat of these sharks is interchangeable, he says.

Any shark to be kept for the table, advised Capt. Bud, should be cleaned as soon as it is caught and put on ice. Remove the head and "gut" the fish immediately. At home, the shark can be cut up as you would any fish of the same basic shape. Treat the cartilege as bone; fillet and skin accordingly.

Copies of Capt. Bud's Shark & Seafood Cookery are available for $3.95 each by sending check or money order to: M. White, 445 Steuben Avenue, Forked River, New Jersey 08731.

★ ATTENTION ★

Fishing Clubs, C.G. Auxiliaries and other fishing related organizations having important information to share with our readers can send it to: The Fisherman, Post Office Box 1994, Sag Harbor, N.Y. 11963.

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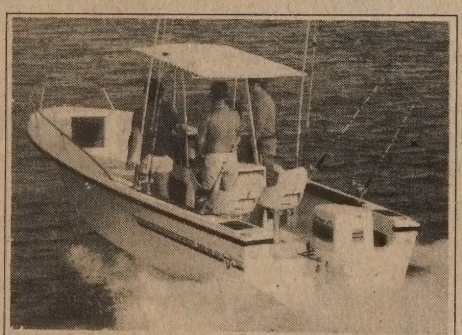

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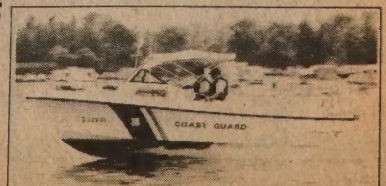

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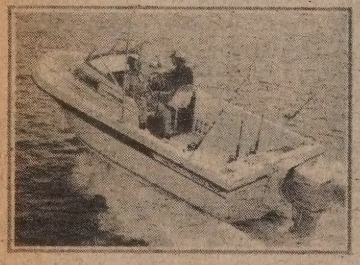

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Reliable, one of the biggest names in gaffs and other offshore hardware, of all sizes, announces a real breakthrough regarding the hardness of their gaff hooks. According to Reliable's president, Jerry Schnur, the hooks are now made of the hardest and toughest corrosion-resistant stainless steel available, which makes it virtually impossible for a very large or green fish to bend the hook open. The steel is a special formulation developed by Reliable and its steel manufacturer and engineers. "It's super steel—the toughest," emphasized Jerry. Carrying Reliable's usual lifetime guarantee, in lab tests, the hook steel proved much harder than anything on the market for this purpose.

SITTON RE-INVENTS THE FISHING HOOK

A new development in fishing promises to revolutionize the sport with the same impact as the introduction of monofilament line.

The new Sitton Superhook is manufactured of a lightweight, transparent, unbreakable plastic material, with a four-barbed point that holds the fish more securely than traditional carbon of stainless steel hooks.

The Super Hook's transparent quality makes it more difficult to see, completing the camouflage concept begun with the introduction of monofilament line.

The hook's lighter weight makes for a more active, natural-looking line, thus making it more enticing to a fish.

Because of the Super Hook's flexibility and rustproof qualities, the fisherman is assured of a longer hook life and less rust in his tackle box. The hook can be resharpened to a needle point for lasting effectiveness.

Gary Sitton, developer of the Sitton Super Hook, said the hook represents the culmination of a long-time ambition. "It just seemed like the logical completion to the transparent fishing line," Sitton said, "I've wanted to develop the hook for years but, until recently, the right material didn't exist."

Once he found the new material, Sitton enlisted the design and patent expertise that created the highly successful "Weed-Eater" yard tool. Sitton said the new transparent plastic material, the strongest known to man, offers greater flexibility and shock absorption than metal hooks, creating less tear on the fish's mouth than rigid metal hooks.

Another feature of the Sitton Super Hook is the variability of its weight test, which is more compatible with those of monofilament lines. Sitton said, "It didn't make sense to me, to fish with a 1000 pound test hook at the end of an 8 to 10 pound test line."

So far, the only research of the hook has been conducted "in the field," by Sitton and other enthusiastic fishermen.

"Results? Sure, I can cite countless instances in which a fisherman using my hook has had greater success than his fishing buddies who've been using traditional hooks," Sitton said. "But to a non-believer, those are just fishing stories. Common sense would tell you that a transparent, lightweight, flexible, unbreakable hook is going to catch more fish."

Sitton is currently finalizing arrangements with distributors to make the Super Hook available in sporting goods stores nationwide.

Inquiries should be sent to: Sitton Super Hook, P.O. Box 3543, Beaumont, Texas 77704. For more information, contact Gary Sitton at (409) 833-4373.

PENN'S 200L SURFMASTER® REEL: HEAVY DUTY LIGHTWEIGHT

By combining high quality alloys with Penn's traditionally rugged construction, the Penn 200L Surfmaster reel can weigh in at just 19 ounces, yet be able to hold 250 yards of 30 pound test mono. William M. Kenney recently used his Surfmaster to set a new IGFA saltwater record for permit with his 51 lb. 8 oz. catch at Lake Worth, Florida.

The popularly priced 200L features a precision die-cast black anodized spool, distortion-free plastic side plates with chrome plated brass rings, and Penn's famous "Star Drag" system that allows anglers to control drag tension. In addition, all Surfmaster reels feature one-screw takedown and one-shot lubrication for fast, easy routine maintenance.

For further information, contact: Penn Fishing Tackle Mfg. Co., 3028 West Hunting Park Ave., Dept. P, Philadelphia, PA 19132. Or call (215) 229-9415. Cable "PENNREEL" TWX 71066701450.

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Now available in two sizes with main tray depths of 1½ inches, or 3½ inches for greater carrying capacity, the Fishin' Partner is the ideal box for stream fishing, fly casting, surf

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Filling the need of surf fishermen for a compact, handy and convenient way to carry lures, plugs, etc., while fishing, is the new Bronco Lure Bag.

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Many practical features are incorporated into the Bronco Lure Bag, such as: adjustable shoulder strap, allowing free use of the arms and hands for the important business of casting; an adjustable snap fastening on the flap for overstuffing, and pouch pockets on the outside of the bag supplying space for tins and other miscellaneous. Belt loops on the back of the bag permit it to be strapped around the waist for complete body freedom. Drain holes in the bottom permit fast drying.

Made in the U.S.A., the Bronco Lure Bag is available only through Merrick Tackle Center, 2655 Merrick Road, Bellmore, N.Y. 11710. For further information, please write or call 516-781-7766. Dealer inquiries are welcome.

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Bodies are molded of a composite material that will not rust nor corrode. The rollers feature "Aftcote" Teflon lubricated bearings.

For additional information, call or wite: Bill Shedd, AFTCO Mfg. Co., Inc., 17531 Murphy Ave., Irvine CA 92714; (714) 754-0767.

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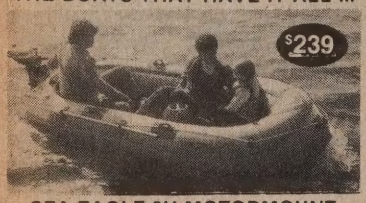

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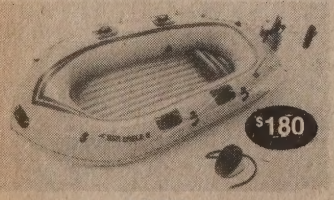

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THE CAPTAIN'S TABLE:

SQUID RECIPES

by Barbara Mason

Squid, or calamari, used to be considered a poor man's food. It now graces the menus of luxury restaurants. It has long been considered a delicacy in the Mediterranean and many Americans are now beginning to savor the squid's sweet and tender flesh. The fact that it is high in protein but low in calories adds further to its appeal. Like most seafood, it must not be over-cooked or it will be tough and rubbery. Here are three ways to savor the sweet, rich meat of calamari.

SQUID ST. THOMAS

2 lbs. fresh squid
6 tbs. olive oil
3 stalks celery, minced
1 cup tomato paste
1/8 tsp. cayenne
1/8 tsp. thyme
4 small raw beets, chopped
1 onion, minced
3 sprigs parsley, minced
1/4 tsp salt
1/8 tsp. freshly ground black pepper
4 slices buttered toast

Clean squid and cut into small cubes. Pour olive oil into deep saucepan. Add celery, cayenne, thyme, raw chopped beets, onion, parsley, salt and pepper. Cover and simmer over low heat 15 minutes, or until beets are tender. Dissolve tomato paste in small quantity of hot water and add to sauce. Add squid, cover and simmer for 10 minutes. Serve piping hot over buttered toast.
YIELD: Four servings.

CALAMARI RICE SALAD

2 lbs. fresh squid
3 tbs. olive oil
2 cups freshly cooked rice
1 chopped small onion
1 sliced red pepper
2 sliced tomatoes
2 tbs. mayonnaise
Parsley, tarragon, lemon juice to taste
white wine
lettuce
black olives

Clean squid and cut into rings or strips. Saute in wine for two minutes and set aside. Add olive oil, onion, red pepper, parsley and tarragon to the rice while it is still hot. Cool the rice mixture and add squid, tomatoes, lemon juice and mayonnaise. Serve on lettuce garnished with black olives.
YIELD: Four servings.

SAUTEED SQUID WITH MUSTARD SAUCE

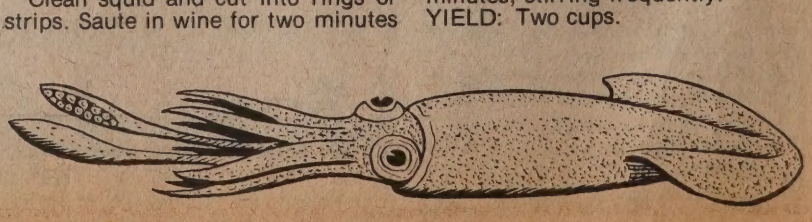
Since the flesh of squid is sweet and rich, it is best prepared simply, although the flavor becomes more intriguing when served with a tart mustard sauce.
4 small fresh squid
1/2 cup flour
1/2 tsp salt
1/4 tsp. freshly ground black pepper
1/2 cup olive oil
2 small eggs, beaten

Prepare squid for cooking and cut body and tentacles into half-inch rings. Combine flour, salt and pepper in a bag. Add squid pieces a few at a time and coat well. Heat oil until sizzling hot. Using a slotted spoon, dip coated squid pieces into beaten eggs, drain slightly and place in hot fat. Cook pieces quickly (five minutes maximum time) over moderate heat, turning to brown all sides. Drain cooked pieces on paper towels and serve with mustard sauce.
YIELD: Four servings.

MUSTARD SAUCE

2 tbs. butter
2 tbs. flour
2 cups fish stock or bottled clam juice
1/2 tsp. lemon juice
1 tbs. onion, minced
1 tsp. prepared English mustard
3 tbs. dry white wine
salt & freshly ground black pepper to taste

Melt butter, add flour, and cook mixture over very low heat for approximately two minutes. Gradually add fish stock, stirring constantly until well blended and slightly thickened. Combine remaining ingredients and simmer for 10 minutes, stirring frequently.
YIELD: Two cups.



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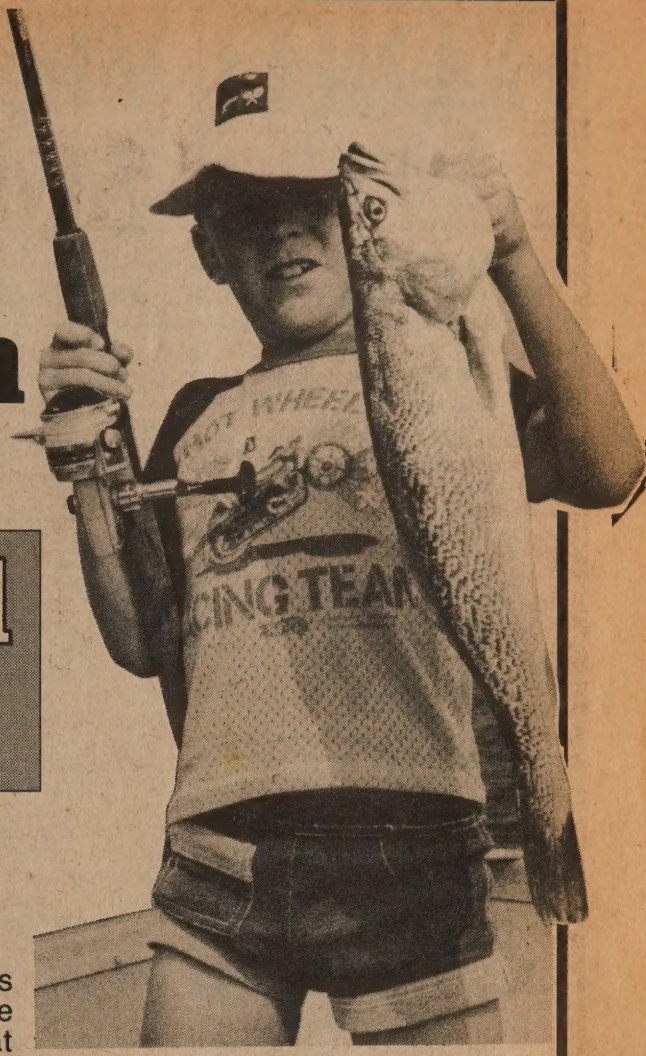

It's a sad fact that many youngsters never get the opportunity to experience the joys that fishing can provide. We, here at **The Fisherman**, feel that the need to introduce youngsters to this healthy and wholesome sport has never been greater.

If you agree, and would like to join with us in making the **Send-A-Kid Fishing** program a success, won't you please send along a small donation to help us fund fishing trips for these boys and girls. A donation of $8.00 will cover the cost of a day's fishing for one youngster but any contribution at all will be greatly appreciated. How about everyone (individuals, fishing clubs, fishing related businesses and organizations, etc.) joining in and showing these kids what fishing, and fishermen, are all about. A listing of the names of all those who contribute to the program will appear in **The Fisherman** at the close of summer.

Yes, I would like to "Send-A-Kid Fishing" this summer.
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Make checks payable to: **"SEND-A-KID FISHING"** All donations should be sent to: P.O. Box 1994, Bridge Street, Sag Harbor, N.Y. 11963

A DIM VIEW OF FOG

by Ray Hendrickson

While we all do our best to avoid tribulations of running in fog, there are those times when we are left no choice.

I don't know anyone with both oars in the water who likes fog. I don't like it—no matter how much electronics is on the boat under my boots. The only time the soup ever came close to doing me a favor was when my son was married on an August Sunday. The stuff was so thick off Shinnecock that day that **every** boat stayed at the dock!

Even the cagiest stalwart working his private bass hole, shrouded from prying eyes by billowing gray blankets, will admit (if he admits anything at all) that terminal ends of surreptitious sorties are better accomplished with at least a modicum of visibility. But weather wise as we may be, sooner or later, if we put enough time in on the water, we're bound to get wrapped up in the stuff. When it happens we all fare a bit better if we've done our homework and keep a few salient facts in mind.

The primary homework lesson is to know that your compass is properly compensated, and what variations, if any, it poses on headings between the cardinals. The second lesson, and probably the hardest to swallow when the fog-beaded chips are down, is TRUST your compass. Your body senses are a bunch of pathological liars compared to any compass of acceptable quality!

Cases in point: the night a cruiser oozed out of the fog as we nestled at anchor between Crane Neck's boulders. "Which way to Kings Park? came dripping across the rippled current. "Steer about 240 magnetic," I hollered back. I don't know where the heck they wound up, but as we lost track of them, I'd say Bridgeport was a likely spot. Their compass must have been totally whacked out of shape. My own virgin cruise in 10 yard visibility ranks with other never-to-be-forgottens. I didn't quite panic—but I won't mention the number of times I went into neutral while I re-convinced myself that the card had to be right, no matter how positive I was that I was going in circles. Without the foundation of initial confidence born of successful transit, your first successful execution of a course made good when you can hardly see the water, it's uncanny how every honed sense in your body can lie and contradict. **Trust your compass!**

Another lesson in the curriculum is learning your boat's speed at various revs; particularly those at the low end of the tach, the turns you'll be prudently making when you won't know what's ahead. A few notes on a card tucked in some safe niche can eliminate a good deal of the guesswork when your eyeballs cry for wipers. Knowing it's going to take about 25 minutes to get from the inlet to buoy 3 at 1000 RPM is decidely more comforting than wondering, after 10 or 15 minutes, whether you've already passed it—or is it still way up ahead.

Most of the time (but too bad we can't bet on it), we're caught in fog (maybe even purposely running in it if the fishing's been that good...or bad) on familiar waters. This scarcely means it won't be as thick as over alien waves, but it does mean we should have developed an inherent feel for currents in the area. And it doesn't make much of a set to shove a slow moving boat off course.

Consider a course you normally run at 20 knots for five minutes between buoys. If there's a half knot current across the course, it pushes you 253 feet to the side during that short five minute run. You hardly notice the set because your eyes make you compensate without even realizing it. Then the curtain drops, and so does your speed—five knots would be a ballpark figure. That same run is going to take 20 minutes, and that "gentle" cross current will set you off more than 330 yards. So how do you handle that with only 50 yards visibility? Currents have to be reckoned with when running at abnormally slow speeds.

So much for homework. It's not a crash course, crammed into one weekend, then forgotten. It's an ongoing, habitual, trickle of information absorbed nearly as much by osmosis as by directed attention. Eventually, it becomes second nature to check compass courses even under the best visibility conditions. Running times become as familiar as serial and Social Security numbers. You've developed the all-important "feel," a salty foundation that will keep you steady when everything else falls apart.

How fast do you run in a fog bank?

Even the pros can make mistakes in the soup!

How many yards does it take to bring your boat to a halt?

How many yards visibility do you have?

I'm not going to go through the mathematics—but I trust you will.

But there's more than visibility involved. If you're running slow enough to stop before hitting something (a log, the beach—container ship!), you're also running with less noise from the engine and wake. You just might hear something 100 yards off the bow at five knots that you wouldn't pick up 30 yards away when up on plane. Even if it's safe to run barely at planing speed, it can be mighty advantageous to throttle way back, even pop into neutral for a moment, when looking for a bell buoy or trying to pick up the horn at the inlet. But there's a hooker to acoustics muffled in the blanket.

Fog-shrouded sounds frequently bounce around—and up and down, too. A boat a quarter of a mile west of a fog horn may quiver from its blast, while the crew on a skiff barely half that distance to the east may wonder why the darned thing isn't working. Mickey Chiarenza is the second guy who'll never forget a "five-yard" night between Shagwong and the Montauk jetties. Neither of us had any trouble hearing the bell buoy—but we were poles apart as to where the welcome pealer was. We would have probably come to blows had we not suddenly agreed. We ran for it, and it was there, but either of us by ourselves would have gone bananas trying to line it up.

Water depth is another salient parameter when navigating in fog. It may not necessarily allow you to get home simply by reading the sounder, but that flasher can guarantee you a safe zone. You can easily miss telltale water action over a rock that's two feet under at low water when fog is dripping off your eyelashes. But if the depth by that rock is eight feet and you stay in 11 feet of water you won't have to worry about it.

If you don't think you can run a course from A to B you might better run the shore line, no matter how invisible and how irregular it may be. Either from local knowledge or a careful check of the chart, pick a safe depth and follow it. Even if you must go out around a few sand bars, navigating by sounder will get you to point B down the shore eventually. In the same manner, even should you never see a buoy, the sounder will keep you from running dangerously close to the edge of a channel, no matter how erratic the course may be.

When running for a particular buoy or inlet with only a compass to guide you, which means you most likely started from a point established by dead reckoning, don't run your estimated course directly for the target, particularly if it's a long run. Hedge to one side and run out your best estimate of time-to-go. When the time is up and the target is nowhere in sight you can be relatively sure it's to port if you hedged your course to starboard. If you run a direct course and the target doesn't loom up on time—flip a coin. It's as good a trick as the next.

Undeniably, any electronics are worth their weight in gas when navigating in limited visibility—as long as they work—and you **know** when a resistor is most likely to fizzle! Still, Loran, radar and direction finders deserve a spot on any boat when the skipper can afford them. I will say this: that money be damned, no one should run offshore without a direction finder aboard. Anyone who can afford the bait and chum and the boat to make the trip can afford a direction finder. But no single electronic instrument should be solely depended upon.

For that matter, Loran stations and inlet beacons have been known to flutter, warble, and sometimes die. We had a dim old time finding Shinnecock one day when the fog was down, and so was the inlet beacon; and unbeknownst to us without Loran, offshore current sets had been horrendous that day.

He who puts all his faith in Loran has never experienced cycle jumps, those 10 second (and worse) jumps that can put the unwary somewhere other than where they think they are. I remember running for the Shinnecock sea buoy one day through fog **and** rain with my first Loran. I'd about despaired of the 43790 line ever coming up on the receiver (indicating we were less than four microseconds off), when a casual glance at the depth recorder indicated some 50-odd feet of water. The buoy is **not** in 50 feet of water. We'd run right past it due to cycle jump. When the numbers skipped I don't know, but ever since I've monitored the set's readout progression with considerably greater attention when it's really been important.

Think back on that episode for a moment. What if we had been running straight for the inlet rather than the offshore buoy? We just might have gelcoated the jetty had I not cross-referenced two black boxes. Which leads to another worthy tip.

When accuracy really becomes important it's frequently wise to set a course for intermediate points that you normally wouldn't encounter. It's safer to run several short legs on an erratic course from buoy to buoy instead of a straight line between the first and the last. If you're off 100 feet on the first marker you might still pick it up at the extreme range of prevailing vision—but that same error rate would most assuredly run you out of sight of that last mark if you ran straight for it.

All things considered, running in fog is basically a matter of taking advantage of every tool at your disposal, availing yourself of every aid to navigation—and cross-checking everything in sight. Like a good carpenter, measure twice and cut once.

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OUTSMARTING SHARKS

by Al Ristori

The very idea of outsmarting a shark is ludicrous. After all, the fish in question is among the most primitive in the ocean, and hardly Phi Beta Kappa material. Yet there are times when catching them can be a frustrating matter—even for the pros.

One of the nice things about sharking is that it's a relatively democratic sport. Nothing more than a grounding in the basics may be enough to carry you to instant success—if you're lucky! At the same time, the best of shark fishermen may be getting skunked. After all, we're dealing with oceanic fish which move over vast areas and don't tend to remain in any given spot for very long. Finding them tends to be somewhat of a hit and miss proposition, though certain areas produce with some consistency during the season. However, the best laid plans often go astray. I could recite one instance after another where good anglers have located shark concentrations in remote areas just before a weekend tournament—and then got shut out in the same place during the contest.

Captain Jay Rigano is a fine inshore captain, especially well-versed in jigging and bottom fishing. Last summer he got talked into a sharking trip and ended up returning to Star Island Marina with a mako that not only took up most of the "Lori-Jay's" cockpit, but was also the biggest I heard of during the entire season at Montauk. Some years ago I caught a 405 pounder from my outboard while fishing for blue sharks with a boat rod and reel more suitable for bluefish. Once again, this was just a matter of lucking into a big fish, as I was only about 12 miles from Montauk in Butterfish Hole, and had just run to that area on an approximate time and course.

Having used a crystal ball to select an area to be chummed, the big question is what to do if nothing happens within a certain period of time. Once again, there are no sure answers. Assuming that you've got a decent drift, you're confronted with a choice of staying with the slick you've established (which may have spread for miles) or running to a completely different area to start all over. My rule of thumb is to move after 2½ hours with little or no action, but that's just a guess. One thing that should be tried before you move, and when you get ready to go home, is to stop chumming and keep fishing for about 10 minutes. It seems that sharks will lay far back in a slick at times, and I've seen this work so frequently that I can't believe it's just coincidence. On one occasion I remember hooking up all three rods long after the last of our slick had left us.

When bluefish invade a chum slick meant for sharks, a bluefish bait is often the answer for makos such as this one.

Especially early in the season, there's also the question of what to do when the bluefish are a plague. Once again, there's no easy answer to the question—as illustrated by results on two trips I made last year. Fishing with Captain Nick Miraglio on his Boston Whaler "Seeker," out of Angler's Roost in Margate, New Jersey early last July we ran into lots of blues at our first stop in 80 feet. I did get a small brown shark, but Nick decided to move a bit further off to get away from the blues. In 90 feet we not only were beyond the blues, but Darrell Lowrance took a 147½ pound mako and we had lots of action with browns—plus a small tiger and hammerhead.

The opposite side of the coin involved my next sharking trip with Ken Schmieder and Tom Wiswall on Ken's Groverbuilt "Lady Marion II" out of Copiague. This trip was noted in my recent piece on small boat tournaments, but I'll summarize it briefly for those who didn't see it there. Fishing south of Fire Island in 150 to 160 feet, we found ourselves inundated by bluefish. It was impossible to even keep a shark line out, and we kept asking ourselves if we should move. Probably we should have, but we started fishing for blues and were having a ball for a couple of hours when a big mako suddenly took a little chunk of mackerel on a bluefish hook as it was being reeled in. Luckily, it soon spit the hook, and we then got hooked up on 50 pound tackle. As that fish was being led to the boat, I spotted another and hooked that one as the first was being subdued. The two makos went 328 and 295 pounds, and certainly left the question of whether to flee the blues (which, after all, are the mako's favorite natural prey when inshore) wide open.

Then we come to yet another controversial question: that of bait. Everyone I've fished with has their own ideas of what makes the ideal shark bait. Most use whole baits of one sort or another, and some combine two baits. Along the Jersey coast the addition of a whole squid to whatever other bait is being used is very popular, and Mike Shamroth, of Lawrence, uses a live eel on the same hook with his dead bait. Now that everyone knows how important bluefish are in the mako's diet, that

species has become one of the most common baits used. Since some anglers feel that the bigger the bait, the bigger the fish, it's not uncommon to see even 10 and 12 pounders being rigged up.

There's little question but that a large fish bait is attractive to big sharks. However, hook penetration becomes a problem—especially if a great deal of time isn't expended in rigging two hooks. We ran into just that problem recently on Jesse York's "Compass Rose VI" out of Atlantic Beach. After making a 48 mile run to the south in search of an early season mako, we got only one shot at a shark. That fish took a 6 pound bluefish being fished far from the boat and did some good pulling on an 80 pound rig. Jay-Jay York had the fish within about 40 feet of the boat when the hook pulled. Actually, there was a question of whether the hook ever penetrated at all—since it was buried in the bluefish head. We didn't see the fish, but the teeth marks seemed to indicate a big mako. Would that fish have come in and hit a simple bait if nothing else was available?

The latter is a question which is very hard to prove either way. In this particular case it might have been a moot point since we were having a hard time keeping fillets (or even whole mackerel) out due to the presence of jumbo blues. On the other hand, the bluefish remained untouched all day until the shark arrived. Of course, there are times when jumbo blues will attack even other jumbo blues rigged as shark bait—but generally you can fish through them with their own kind. When bluefish aren't a consideration, I favor using nothing but fillets. Hooking is usually no problem with such baits, even with light tackle. Furthermore, almost all sharks are hooked in the mouth (since no long dropback is required)—a factor that makes survival after tagging an almost sure thing. It's not inconceivable that some super shark has turned its nose up at my fillets in the past, but if so, I haven't been aware of it—and all of my makos over 200 pounds have been caught on such baits.

Just as the question of baits is one which the best of anglers can argue about forever, so is the business of chumming. Sharks have a great sense of smell and can pick up a chum slick from great distances. I've often heard anglers complain about their lack of success based on "sour chum" they've received, but it's hard for me to believe that such chum would discourage sharks. Indeed, I remember one sunny, calm summer day when I took an afternoon cruise to Butterfish Hole armed with only some very ripe leftover chum and bunker. The bunker I was chunking were so far gone that they made my eyes water, but I soon hooked into a 240 pound mako—and when that fish was hoisted up for weighing, chunk after chunk of that horrible bunker dropped out of its stomach!

A more recent example of the extent to which some anglers will go to attract sharks was provided by a friend who's not a fisherman at all. It seems that a friend of his was invited to go sharking this spring and was having a hard time finding the scent and noise-making "requirements" which the boat owner asked him to obtain. The friend did manage to buy a gallon of blood from a slaughterhouse, but he was having a hard time finding dynamite!

If this discussion of shark fishing techniques leaves you wondering just what is the right thing to do, then the point has been made. After all these years, there are no hard and fast rules about shark fishing techniques. Many very successful anglers fish quite differently from each other. On any given day, you're a hero if you pick the right spot—and a bum if you guess wrong, even though the same area might have produced consistently for days before. These "ignorant" fish may as likely attack the poorly rigged bait of a beginner as that of an expert. As in any other fishing, the pros will outscore the amateurs by a considerable degree over the course of a season—but they'll do it by consistently doing everything right and not fouling up the opportunities presented. On any given day, even a real novice has a good chance to become a hero—a situation which is much less likely in other forms of big game fishing. Learn all you can before you go, but don't hesitate to give sharking a try just because it sounds difficult.

While we're all out there looking for makos, a great many other sharks will be caught in the process. Unless you have a specific need for them, they should be tagged and released. Much about what we know about sharks is gathered by hook and line tagging, and the results are often intriguing. For instance, Jesse York tagged a 300 pound class tiger shark around the Texas Tower area last July and the fish was recaptured off the coast of Costa Rica after six months. That point-to-point movement of 1,853 miles is a new long distance record for a tagged tiger shark. A new "time at liberty" tagging record was recently established by a sandbar (brown) shark tagged off Virginia and recovered southwest of Tampa Bay after 17½ years!

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CULLING THEM OUT

by D.W. Anthony

The author shares some of his thoughts on drilling out stripers from amongst the blues and weaks.

I haven't found anyone in recent years who would choose to disagree with the belief that striped bass stocks are very low. The species isn't extinct and there are still some fish to catch, but the schools aren't as numerous as they once were and the scattered schools aren't as large as they either should be or used to be.

Thank goodness we have had good numbers of weaks and blues, the latter especially abundant in smaller sizes, because if it wasn't for these species us beach rats might have little action. The abundance of sand eels as bait and the domination of weaks and blues compared to bass presents a difficult problem for us. We want to catch bass more than any of the others (at least many of us fee! that way), but there are so few bass mixed into the schools of blues and weaks that catching them can be near to impossible.

Can we get around the problem? Can we cull out a bass or two, or should we throw up our hands and not worry about it? The answer to the first question is that it is possible to cull out a few bass, and the answer to the second question is that the effort will only be worthwhile if you have a passion for catching striped bass.

Some might say that the level of difficulty to culling out bass is greatest in the spring when huge congregations of weakfish can literally dominate an entire beachfront. Others might say the problem is more acute in the fall when good numbers of outsized choppers sweep the beaches like the savage hordes of Attila the Hun. Let's take a look at each season while deliberately avoidng the summer season and see how one beach rat tries to solve the problem.

I find the worst problem to be in spring because I know the bass are there on many a night. In the fall, I'm not so confident. More about the fall later. I know the bass are there in spring. Let's take the case of Long Island Sound. There are many, many locations where sand eels show up right on the beach night after night. Often one can hear or see thousands of weaks and small blues feeding on the bait. There are so many sand eels and predators that the bass in the area simply must be drawn there, too. Besides, here and there someone takes a bass: some are schoolies, but others are good fish! Now that bothered me. I figured I should be able to catch one or two bass myself!

With this perhaps over-inflated sense of my fishing abilities I began to seek ways of culling out the bass a few years back. I have had some success too, which is a good reason and motivation to keep trying. The first thing I observed is that blues and weaks will not usually work the sand eels out of the sand when they are

(Continued on next page.)

Getting beneath the weaks and blues produced these two husky schoolies.

buried. A typical sequence might have the weaks and blues feeding at sunset, the sand eels go into the sand when it gets dark, and the weaks and blues give up on them and leave. Wait around for an hour or two after nightfall because sometimes bass that are cruising an area will come upon the sand eels and by nudging their snouts in the sand push some of the bait out of the sand. If this happens, get on these fish fast because within a short period of time the weaks (maybe the blues, too) that have remained nearby may respond to the commotion and move in to feed. When this happens they'll exceed the bass in numbers.

The second thing I observed was that when the sand eels stay up in the water column, then it is usually the blues that are the first to arrive or the last to leave. Blues are terrors and they are so quick to jump on a lure that it may be hard to take a bass—really hard! However, after a short time weaks show up and often the blues will give up on the feed and move off. Weaks are slower to respond to bait and lures and thus you now may have a chance at a bass. At the end of the tide the bass will leave, then the weaks will leave, and the blues may move back in. Once again, your chance of a bass when the blues move in becomes really remote.

The third thing I observed is that the bass avoid the thick of the action. That is, you are not likely to find the bass feeding in the densest part of the bait school, but you are likely to find the weaks there. I believe that the bass are a lot smarter than weaks or blues and they also feed in more precise and predictable patterns. I have come to believe that bass are upset by the frantic and helter-skelter feeding feeding patterns of weaks and blues. There is, perhaps, too much wasted motion to suit them. Therefore, I look for the bass at the edges of activity. I remember one night when I walked away from a concentration of surf casters, sand eels, and weakfish. I began to cast a ways down the beach. There were sand eels in the water, but they weren't thick. After a few casts I heard a splash and from then on I heard repeated, but very intermittent, splashes. When I slowed down my retrieve I began to take bass after bass for about an hour. The fellas down the beach took only weakfish, but I was close enough to see them the whole time in the dim nightlight.

Moving to the edge of the baitfish school is one way to improve your chances of nailing a bass. However, it isn't the only way. If the water is quite shallow it may indeed be your only choice, but if the water is deeper, let's say 10 to 20 feet at the end of the cast, you have another option open to you. Perhaps the weaks are cruising under the surface, as is their habit, and here and there they suck in a sand eel or two. The bass are likely to be feeding closer to the bottom where they can ambush the bait, do less swimming and save energy. Therefore, if you want weaks stick with the surface plugs, but if you want bass, switch to something that will get down to where the bass are. A sinking plug might work, but they sink more slowly than beaded lures and you are likely to be hounded by weaks. Perhaps then, bucktails or tube lures are a better choice. I like a 3/8 ounce white bucktail with a piece of red jelly worm on the hook. If blues are mixed in, the choice of plastic worm might be a disaster and annoying too. However, tube lures are also a good choice for the bass and they are durable for blues. I like half-ounce and three-quarter ounce white WhipTails and three-quarter ounce or one ounce eel worms. I prefer red, black, or amber eel worms after dark. Cast the lure out and let it sink freely. Do not retrieve. Develop a count system. That is, let it sink and begin counting slowly. When the lure hits bottom and the line goes slack, begin your retrieve. Next cast don't even worry about sensing the line for slackness. Simply cast out and count at the same rate to the same number as before and then begin your retrieve with a flip of your wrist to get the lure to jump off the bottom. If the weaks and blues are feeding very close to the shore, retrieve very fast towards the

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end of your retrieve in order to discourage unwanted takers. Deep feeding bass will bump the lure rather than smash it, so be prepared to sink the hook when you feel that bump.

It may be hard to walk away from hot action or to continue to use a technique intended to avoid strikes from blues and weaks. The discipline to walk away is easier than staying with a technique in the midst of plenty. To walk away in search of bass, simply do that. Walk away and don't look back. Try some spots and look and listen. If after an hour or so you do not find bass, return to the place of the weakfish action and hope they are still there. Don't be surprised that when you return and if the fish are still there, that you won't be able to catch one. That's because the chances are that you'll be all pumped up and angry for leaving in the first place. Your casts and retrieves will be off. Try not to get upset or second guess yourself. Step in the water and calmly start fishing with your best technique.

Staying with a technique that deliberately avoids strikes can be worse than walking. Around you, drags will be singing and fish will be flopping on the beach. Remember, there are fewer bass out there than weaks and if you want bass, the hits will be fewer. You'll need mental toughness to succeed at this. You need to block out what is going on around you, and you'll need to be certain that outside influences aren't causing you to get sloppy in your fishing. Sloppy techniques and applications will not usually take bass.

That brings us to the fall. I usually don't worry much about this in the fall for a couple of reasons. One is that in recent years, most of the bass schools have passed us far off the beach. If I want bass, I'll head to Montauk or work the inlets. The rest of the time I won't worry what I catch. Blues up to 20 pounds instead of two and three pounds also help to make one feel better about settling for bluefish.

Nonetheless, if you want to catch bass when the blues are on one of their patented feeding binges, try this. If the blues want cut bait, such as bunker or mackerel, try throwing big plugs and tins. If the blues want plugs and tins, try using bait. Once again, work the edges of the school instead of the middle of the bait school. Once again, be patient and remember if you want bass, the hits will be fewer. Work more night hours and fewer day hours since blues will scatter more at night and the bass will be less wary of the shallow inshore water. Avoid sand eels in the fall. Try to fish around mullet or bunker. Sand eels tend to attract everything from sundials to lunker bass—although we don't always have a choice of bait.

Try these ideas out and I hope you catch a few bass. If you do, give some thought to releasing them for another year. Right now we need every bass we have swimming and spawning for the future.

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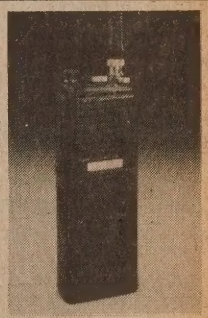

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DEADLY FLUKE BAIT

by Sal Agliano

To many, the dogfish is no more than a nemesis but to this writer, a "doggie" translates into some good fluke action.

Often referred to as: "A menace to fishing!" "Nuisance!" "Pest!" because of its frequent attraction to the baited hook meant for other species, the dogfish, a small member of the shark family, is held in unbounded contempt by most fishermen. But I, for one, welcome its intrusion with open arms. While many fishermen overlook and quite often don't even consider the dogfish as a viable bait source for fluke, I find it to be most deadly. So much so that today I rarely fish for fluke without it.

I remember well the first time I used dogfish as fluke bait. It was August 27, 1978. I was mate aboard Captain Paul Luisi's charter boat, the Sailfin. We had taken on a party of four fishermen, who, all morning, had been bailing fish along the Coney Island Flats using sand eels, spearing and squid strips as bait. By noon they had boated 42 fluke and several dogfish.

The action was consistently good—so good that our bait supply was becoming critically low. We could have cut up some of the smaller fluke, but with the smallest being almost two feet long, it seemed a shame to cut such a fine catch into bait—especially when a dogfish nearly twice its size was lying on the deck. If fluke belly could be used as bait, I thought, why not dogfish?

I sliced several tapered strips from the dogfish's belly and offered it to the fishermen. No one seemed interested. They continued to rig the original bait, even preferring tattered squid strips to the dogfish. Someone had to take the plunge; so I selected the longest strip of dogfish—about a foot long—and impaled it on my hook.

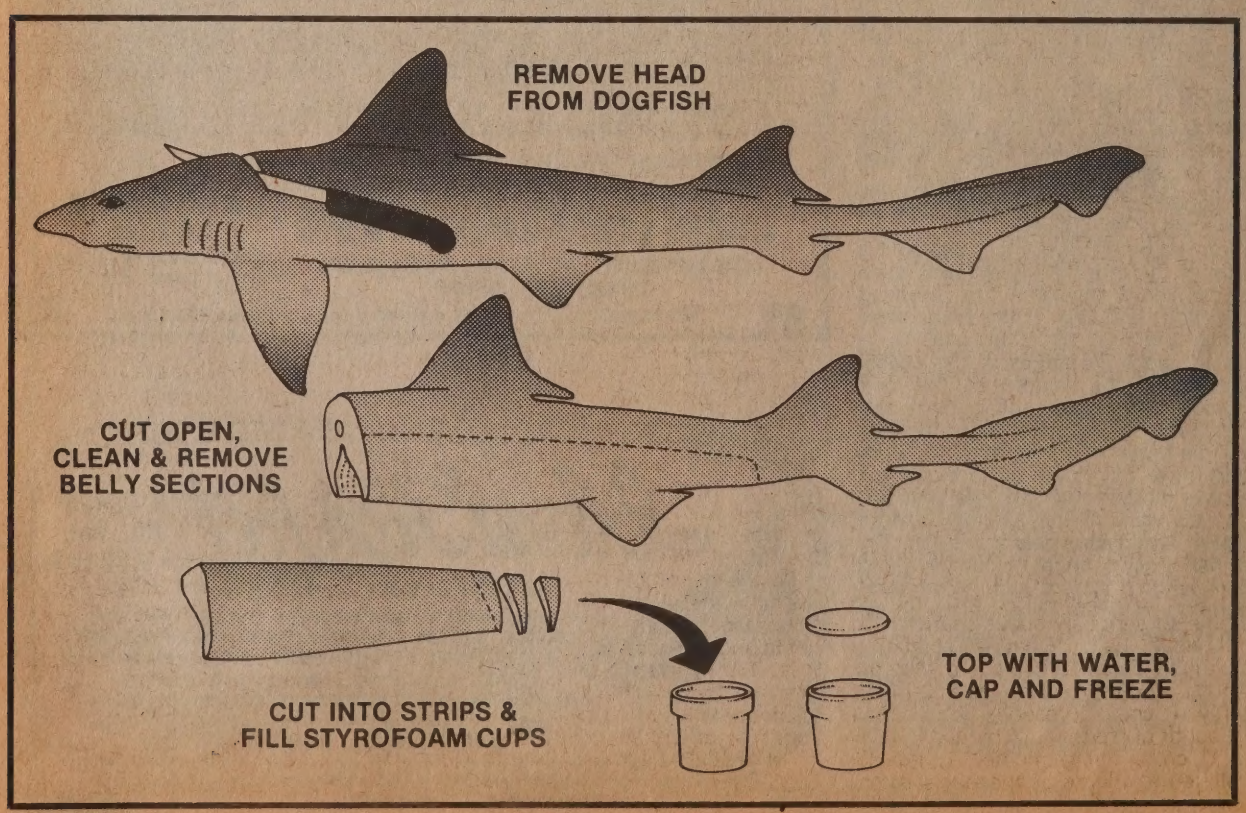
I dropped it over the side and let out line until the rig hit bottom. I lifted very slightly, waited a second or so and dropped back. Then I made a quick, sharp, high lift of about three feet.

After several lifts, I began to feel some resistance and additional weight. I allowed about two more yards of line to slowly peel off. I waited momentarily for the drift to pick up the line's slack, then I lifted again. The resistance and weight were still there. Was it a piece of bottom, a cluster of mussels or was it a fish?

Taking no chances, I released a little more line and once again lifted very slightly. I purposely refrained from engaging in high lifts, bearing in mind that I had a piece of bait almost the legal size limit for the prey I was stalking. Any sudden erratic movement on my part could spook a line shy fluke, or at best, provoke the fish to strike short of the hook. What I was hoping for was a slow eater, one moving up inch by inch on the strip of bait.

Then on about the fourth lift, the fish, finally reaching the hook, struck back. I raised the tip of the rod over my head and sank the hook. The fish pulled back, setting a deep bend in the rod. I wedged the rod's butt between my ribs and left arm as I slowly and steadily cranked line. This fish, that had crept up on the bait with but little warning, never once waned in its violent struggle to free itself once it was hooked.

It soon surfaced as the skipper


REMOVE HEAD FROM DOGFISH
CUT OPEN, CLEAN & REMOVE BELLY SECTIONS
CUT INTO STRIPS & FILL STYROFOAM CUPS
TOP WITH WATER, CAP AND FREEZE

stood by with net in hand. But it made a last minute run, taking yards of line. It appeared the fish had sounded, but instead it made a lateral run and moments later broke water about 20 feet out and broadside to the boat. As it thrashed about, I thought for sure I would lose it. Then slowly adding line, inch by agonizing inch, I drew the fish closer and closer.

Soon it was again alongside the boat. The skipper placed the net into the water and quickly netted the fish. It was huge—weighing 8 lbs. 11 oz. This fish, a first time catch for me using baited dogfish, was in fact the largest fluke I had ever taken.

It wasn't until July of the following year that I again used dogfish as fluke bait. I had been fishing with a buddy, George Vermilyea, aboard the party boat Atomic II out of Sheepshead Bay. The fishing was picky and mostly shorts to boot. Then George felt a solid hit, but it turned out to be a dogfish.

We had been fishing for about two hours, yet neither of us had hooked into a keeper fluke. Soon the tide would be full high and the chances of taking any fish at that time would be even less likely. It was then the captain, Joe Miller, gave a blast on the horn and announced that we would be moving south to fish close to the beach off the Atlantic Highlands in New Jersey. I knew it would take a good half-hour to reach the Highlands, so I put the time spent traveling to good use.

I took the dogfish to the stern where there was a fish-cleaning table. Cutting into the fish's belly, I sliced about a dozen six inch tapered strips. I rigged both George and myself with dogfish and waited for the boat to reach its destination.

Soon we arrived and the captain signaled to begin fishing. Almost immediately, someone from the stern called out for the net. Then it was someone from the bow, then each fisherman who flanked us called out. Fluke were flying over the rail, two and three at a time. Most of the fish were so deep-hooked that many of the fishermen eventually didn't even bother to summon the mate to net the fish—they just swung 'em aboard. It seemed everyone was into fish—everyone but George and I.

Then, as if in answer to my prayers, I got my first solid hit. Moments later a three pound fluke was flopping at my feet. Then George took two, one after the other. Up and over they came. Often one piece of dogfish took two and three fish before we rebaited the hooks.

At day's end George and I had taken 16 nice-sized fluke. But it was my last catch of the day—a dogfish, three feet long—that got me to thinking seriously about shark strips as fluke bait. What a shame, I thought. This one fish could keep me in bait for the rest of the season. If only I could preserve it. Then I thought of freezing. Why not?

Upon arriving home, I quickly filleted my share of the day's catch. Once that was out of the way, I began to prepare the dogfish. First I removed its head. Then with a sharp knife, I made a cut from the anal opening upward toward where the head had been severed. I cleaned out the gut cavity and cut out two large sections of meat from the fish's belly. With sharp heavy shears, I cut the meat into many six inch pendant-shaped strips—no more than an inch long at the wider end. The strips were now ready for freezing.

After placing six strips into each of many 12 ounce styrofoam drinking cups, I filled the cups with tap water to within an inch of the top, making sure the bait was completely covered. The cups were capped and placed into the freezer, ready for my next fluke trip.

A week later with two cups of partially-thawed dogfish strips, I stepped aboard the Atomic II for a day of fluking. The results were unbelievable. Using only the bait I had taken from my freezer, I boated 12 fluke. Each was well over two pounds and the biggest was a shade less than the pool fish of four pounds. The dogfish was hit as often as any of the other baits used that day.

The very next day, I again boarded the Atomic. But the wind and tide conditions made for a very slow drift. Consequently, crabs were seizing the bait. It was then I discovered the durability of the dogfish as bait. Its tough sandpapery hide was virtually indestructible to the massive crab attack. It did, however, after an hour or so, become ragged and unattractive, at which time I replaced it with a fresh piece. Nevertheless, while the other fishermen were regularly stripped clean of bait, the dogfish came through for me. My eight fluke catch was high hook that day. Most fishermen only bagged two or three fish; many caught none.

Week after week I used dogfish as fluke bait. The results were always the same: good to excellent. At year's end I had taken 268 fluke on dogfish—the most fluke I had ever caught in one season. A repeat of the same tactics in 1980 produced similar results; 1981 was better yet, climaxing on September 2 with a six pounder that copped the pool aboard the party boat Dorothy B out of Sheepshead Bay. Unfortunately, in 1982 I had not seen a dogfish until the middle of August. The fish was so small that it only provided enough bait for the day. Then in late September while bluefishing, I hooked into a huge dogfish. This one was sliced and put on ice in my freezer. I now await the onset of the 1983 fluke season fully prepared.

So the next time you hook into a dogfish, that "menace to fishing!" "Nuisance!" "Pest!", don't shout out in anger. Accept it for the blessing it is. Try it, even if only casually at first, as bait for fluke. Then before you know it, you, too, will be stuffing your freezer with an unlimited supply of that DEADLY FLUKE BAIT: DOGFISH!

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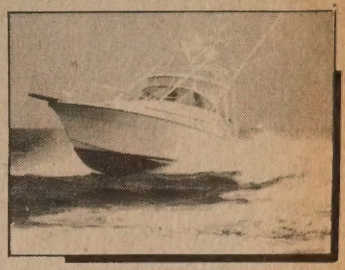

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IS SLOW BETTER?

by Capt. John DeMaio

Many types of fishing are better suited to the use of those "old fashioned" slow retrieve reels.

Freedom of enterprise, competition, and the profit motive have often created a race amongst manufacturers to make the best and most advanced product available. To sell their creation, Madison Avenue agencies are called upon to present it in a neat package that will make the consumer think he must, or should, have it. In reality, they have little or no need for the product in its super advanced form. The original concept will do for most people, but a pattern of fashion is set and to be in vogue, the consumer will buy.

Do you remember Detroit's idea of a family automobile before the energy problems began? A sedan that boasted an engine of 450 cubic inch displacement. This engine generated enough horsepower through its four barreled carburetor to tow an elephant from New York to California at 80 miles per hour. If you had an elephant towing business it was great, but for the housewife to use for her weekly grocery shopping, it was unnecessary.

We all realize that competition is good for a healthy economy and through its workings many excellent products are available to the consumer. If not immediately, but eventually at an affordable price. The hidden fault is the overkill syndrome.

Getting it down to our basic fishing needs, let me examine the Loran C as a perfect example. This electronic marvel is now accepted as a must on a fishing vessel. Once again, competition has loaded the basic idea with endless options. For instance: a private boat travelling no more than five miles a day in one direction has no need for a computerized course option. A boat travelling great distances can save a lot of money on fuel by steering a tight course via the Loran C computerized course control and the auto-pilot. Once again, if you're in the elephant towing business, this is the one you need.

Fishing reels have entered the overkill category. In the past eight years or so, the market has been flooded by an endless array of high performance reels. I think it's wonderful. Foreign imports have forced the national reel makers to get off the butt and meet the competition. Between national and foreign the end result is a better reel for the fisherman.

The high speed reel is the big thing today. Conventional reels of a 4 to 1 ratio, or higher, have become a common sight on fishing rods. Everyone seems to be using a fast retrieve reel regardless of the fishing method and the species being sought. This is wrong. Fast retrieves have a definite place in fishing, but not for everything.

I have always believed a high speed reel was designed for fast retrieving a lure. In the New York area, it had one use: catching bluefish. Undeniably, a speedy retrieve on a diamond jig will catch more bluefish. If fortunate enough to get into some offshore action, members of the tuna family respond better to a rapidly moving lure when cast to. An endless variety of tropical, and semi-tropical fish such as Florida's king mackerel demand the big gear to make them bite. As a rule of thumb, fast retrieves are needed in clear water areas for surface fish.

How about bottom fishing? Except for unusual conditions when special tackle is required, an "old-fashioned" reel will do nicely. Reeling in a cod from a deep water area can be hard work on a 4 to 1. A natural tendency to rush the fish occurs. This puts a strain on both tackle and fisherman. A poorly hooked fish will tear off easier when rushed. Hasty retrieves straighten hooks, break lines and strip gears. In the hands of an amateur the results can be disastrous. I have seen strong novices literally tear a handle off a fast retrieve reel in a day's fishing.

Some years back, a new reel maker gave me several models to try out on my charter boat. One reel had a 5 to 1 ratio. My first attempt at using this reel was for blackfish in 100 feet of water. Simply lowering a sinker to the bottom with baited hooks, get the bite, hook the fish and reel him in. After three blackfish, I packed it in. The fish averaged at five pounds apiece and I found I was unable to turn the handle unless I pumped the rod. This was the perfect example of the wrong tool. Still, it makes a point. It is one thing to hook the fish, but how the hell do you reel him in?

Now, consider that for a moment you're in a situation where a high speed reel is the answer for making the fish bite. Unfortunately, reeling the fish in is almost painful. What do you do? It is obvious that you are stuck. My attitude regarding such a given situation is catch the fish first and worry later.

A better idea is to use the correct reel to begin with. On Long Island most of the fishing is bottom fishing. Fluke and flounder are without a doubt the most popular. These fish require small reels of average retrieve. Bigger bottom dwellers such as cod will need a larger reel, but not necessarily a fast retrieve. Even using artificial lures on cod does not require big gear. Codfish respond best to a slow moving lure. So, do other fish that are not associated with the sinker bouncing species.

Fast retrieves are not needed to catch striped bass. In all my years of fishing I have not come across an instance when only the quick retrieve could make a bass bite. Just the opposite is often true. A slow to very slow moving lure is best. This applies to all the popular methods. Casting, diamond jigging and trolling. You can row a boat fast enough to troll up a striped bass, but could you raise a tuna at this speed? I doubt it. My success at bucktailing bass has always been by slowly retrieving the lure. In position of retrieving a lure against the tide, I often turn the handle so slowly that a 100 foot cast will take a few minutes to retrieve. The feeding habits of bass do not demand fast retrieves.

Diamond jigging a bass is similar. At times, you may need to move the lure rapidly to get the fish's attention but you must stop it to make him bite. Most of my success in using jigs is done by stemming the tide. This method is popular at Montauk Point. The boat is placed into the tide and idled down in gear to achieve an almost anchored-like position. The jig is dropped to the bottom, stopped the instant it hits and then a few very slow turns of the handle. At this point, the lure is simply hanging over the bottom with barely any movement. You do not need the big gear for this. If you don't get a bite, you reel it back up and repeat it again and again.

It's the again part that some anglers see the need of the speed retrieve. The ability of getting the line in quickly, only to go back again. Fast fishing! Even in bottom fishing. If the fish takes the bait, you can retrieve your line in a hurry, bait up, and return again for a chance at another one. Commercial fishermen find a need for this. Fish only bite for short periods and the fisherman must work

quickly during that allotted time. Here, too, the empasis is **work**. Whenever you retrieve a fish as fast as possible it becomes work.

This concept can get out of hand. Such as the story told to me by Johnny Kronuch. John is a surfcasting purist who would rather pull bass out of the suds on eight pound test line than anything. Of course, this kind of fishing has a minimum of action, so for John to relieve his lust for some hot bloody fishing, he will fish blues at night on a head boat. He spoke of seeing an enterprising angler who made him an oversized handle for his reel. Something that would enable him to crank the big blues in faster. It is at least 12 inches in diameter and was being used on a fast retrieve. My shoulder began to ache as he related the story. I immediately thought this was a diabolical plot conceived by a group of orthopedics to drum up more business. With each reel purchased the buyer received a month's supply of Indicin.

Who can blame the ambitious bluefisherman for his creation. It was merely American ingenuity at work, plus a little brain-washing. After all, the manufacturers are slowly upping the speed of retrieve with new models, so why shouldn't he do his best on his level.

Weakfish, perhaps the number one inshore game fish on the East Coast right now, are also slow retrieve artists. Just like the bass, they prefer a slow moving lure. A well controlled lure passing slowly through their midst is sure fire. In casting and retrieving the lure should be reeled in slowly, and most often deeply, for best results. Slow and deep is advisable for the troller also. And the popular diamond jig, with added dropper lures is best used in the manner prescribed for striped bass.

What seems like the obvious answer to using a fast retrieve—simply turn the handle slower—doesn't always work. The self-restraint needed to slow up your gear ratio often escapes us. We tend to use the reel as designed. What I have done in some cases is to replace the large manufacturer's reel handle with a smaller one. This helps some. Even if you can slow it up, you're still faced with the problem of retrieving the fish. No matter how slow you crank, the high gear ratio still makes it difficult.

Many fish caught on the big gear are lost at the boat. I attribute this to a large hole being created where the hook is lodged because of the fast retrieve. Often some slack line takes place when the fish is being landed, resulting in the hook falling out and another story about the one that got away. If the fish had been slowly retrieved in the first place the hook may not have pulled out.

Your average angler never takes the time to measure the amount of line being retrieved at a given length. It would open his eyes to the high performance of the reel. One popular 4 to 1 reel, with a full spool, will take in approximately two feet of line with each full turn of the handle. Just think of how many times you can turn a handle in five seconds and you have some idea of how fast you're going. No wonder we often end up with only the lip of the bluefish on the end of the jig.

The joys of buying new tackle and taking it fishing is a simple luxury that many of us can afford. Unlike autos and boats that must be purchased with direct regard to cost and use, buying a new fishing reel that didn't live up to expectations is no great loss. We all have a few such reels stuffed away in a drawer somewhere. Someday their turn may come. Every experienced fisherman knows that we need a variety of rods and reels for effective fishing on the various species. Each reel has a definite use. Its basic design dictates that use.

We are creatures of habit, often doing things without thinking. The next time you buy a new reel, determine your choice by the intended use. (Remember the elephant!) The size of the reel in relation to the rod. Is it suitable for the pound test line you intend using? If you're going to use the reel in regard to a specific lure, what type action is required for effective use of such a lure? Fast or slow? Which brings us to the final question: what gear ratio is best?

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GEAR UP FOR CANYON FISHING

Part One—*by Lou Truppi*

Before you go rushing off to a distant canyon, give some thought to your equipment.

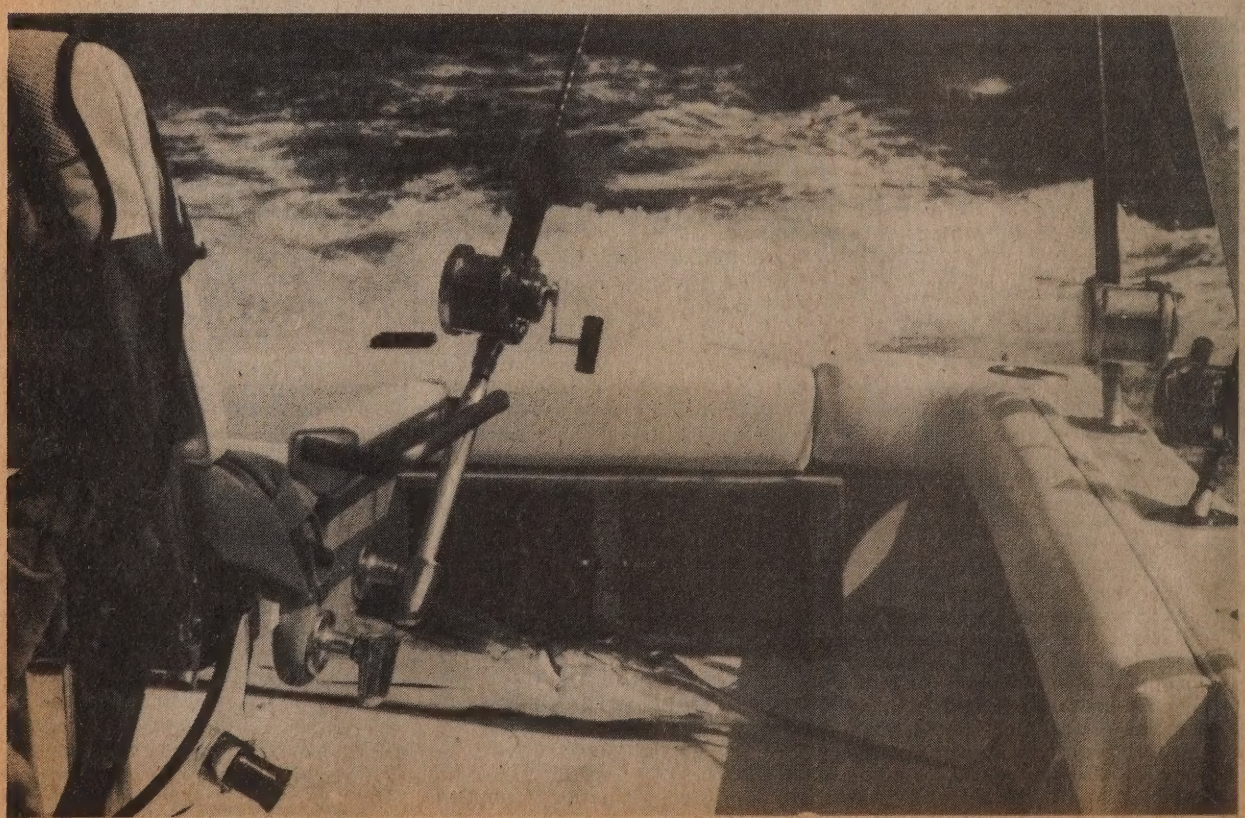
My first trip to fish the canyons of the East Coast took place some 15 years ago. Somehow, 250 trips later, that first offshore encounter ranks with some of my better memories. No, we didn't come home with boatloads of tuna and marlin, but I learned some fast lessons on my initial tackle selection and its inadequacies.

Over the years I've experimented with a lot of styles of rods, reels, lines, harnesses, gaffs, and anything else we deemed necessary to battle tough fish. Since the predominant species in our local canyons is the tuna, these battles can be strenuous indeed. Even though most modern sport fishing boats are equipped with suitable fighting chairs, in many instances multiple big fish hook-ups preclude all but one angler being seated. Bigeye tuna are notorious for multiple hook-ups. Faced with two or more bigeyes hooked at once, one or more angler is going to be standing fighting their fish. This situation occurs time and time again throughout the season. How the canyon angler prepares for this eventuality dictates how he fares for the day. Many times this preparation can preclude the loss of a trophy fish.

Tackle selection ranks high on my list of getting your offshore gear ready. Forget the over-kill giant tuna tackle. One hundred thirty pound class tackle is not needed for canyon fishing. What is needed is good quality 50 and 80 lb. class rods. The heavier tackle can put the angler at a distinct disadvantage. It's fine for giant tuna, but where most fish are under 300 lbs., a select group of 50 and 80 lb. class stand-up tackle is a far better choice.

All rod companies tout their rod's abilities. Most do have excellent rods. It's not the quality that I find fault with, it's the design of most big game rods that leaves a lot to be desired. Heretofore, all big game rods have been lumped into one style. Whether an angler fished from a skiff or 50 foot sportfisherman; whether he stood up on his fish or used a fighting chair—nothing changed. Why, I don't know. Now with even party boats making canyon runs, anglers should be aware there is a distinct advantage to be had in rod choice. Reels are available as are lines to fit everyone's need, but proper rod design lags far behind.

To back track to one of my initial canyon forays, 30 lb. tackle was the predominant choice, simply because I didn't know any better. Many times we would favor 20 for white marlin angling. Unless you're after a line class record, this light tackle is not as



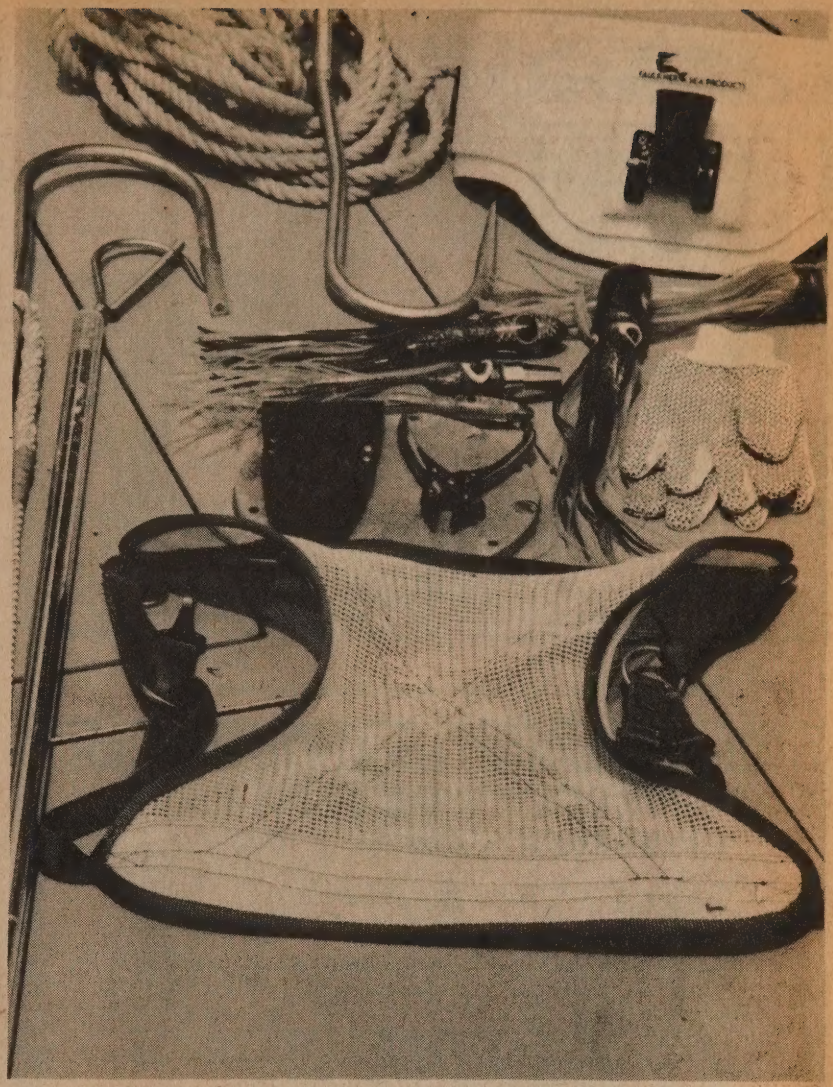
Cockpit readiness as evidenced by this photo led to the capture of this 118 pound white marlin.

sporting as first thought to be. First, it prolongs the fight with all but the smallest fish needlessly. It unduly tires the angler, takes up valuable fishing time and usually kills the fish in the process. A fish such as a marlin that has been fought for an hour or more is not a candidate for a humane release. The same occurs with the tuna. By upgrading your tackle to the stand-up 50 or 80 lb. class, both fish and angler will be spared excessive abuse. In fact, I would say that outside of night swordfishing, you can leave the 130 lb. gear at home. Many anglers might question my sanity due to the several big marlin captured during the past couple of years. Two of these bigger fish were in the 900 lb. class and definitely candidates for the heavy tackle. True, but the tackle system I've developed and now rely on can be counted on to take this size fish without too much strain.

I think we can all agree that a lot of fish are definitely to be fought standing up. For this reason alone, I've experimented for years to develop outfits that were light, but powerful. I reasoned rod and complete outfit must be designed to punish the fish, not the angler. Up to now, most outfits were certainly more than enough to beat the fish, but equally effective at tiring the angler. Sometimes they were so awkward on weight and design that the angler tired long before his quarry. To overcome this disadvantage most tackle companies did absolutely nothing. Rod design should have been changed years ago, but nothing was forthcoming. So, about five years ago, I began to experiment with new rod design that would be light, not cumbersome and yet retain the power needed to tackle these canyon bruisers. The nucleus of this rod design incorporated the use of a short but powerful blank. The other features were a shortened aluminum butt and lengthened foregrip.

I ran the gamut on the much publicized long blank theory of rod construction. This principle was derived in part from successful fly fishermen who landed big fish via the long wand. These leaders were seldom over 15 lb. test, while many of the fish landed weighed in excess of 100 lbs. All this information is correct. The long wand being more forgiving, justified the use of light leaders. In fact, once one of these outfits are set up, the average angler can seldom exert enough pressure through the rod to break the leader. Herein lies the key to what I feel is a lot of misunderstanding when this theory is applies to big game angling.

The rods, although nine feet or so long, are exceedingly soft. The fish are generally taken in shallow water, and even then, most are fought for the better part of an hour or more. In deep water, constant pressure must be applied, often to excess, to make up for this rod's softness. Long fights are the rule. The rod does not break the fish's spirit, but merely wears him down. It does not have the ability to both maintain the softness to prevent leader fractures and backbone to move big fish expertly on command. What it does, is give the angler a longer blank for ease in casting and exhibit a softness needed to avoid light line breaks when a big fish decides to go. It only becomes a formidable fish fighting tool in the latter stages of the fight. Once the fish has been punished by the rod's soft reflexes, only then can he be landed by the angler. Even then the final lifting maneuvers can mean a surly amount of angler pressure transferred to the rod to bring a big fish to release or gaff.



Some offshore equipment that should be aboard any boat fishing the blue water.

If you understand this, then you can surely realize how a long, soft rod can become a cumbersome fighting tool when confronted with a 200 lb. tuna. The added leverage prompted by its increased length lends itself to the fish. The angler is forced to overcome the rod's length, softness and the fish's drive when pressure is applied. Much force delivered through the softer blank is lost by the time the rod flexes and line stretch is overcome. Even dacron line with its limited stretch forces the rod blank to absorb the full force of any pressure exerted by the angler. If soft, it will collapse or in this case, bend excessively while not really increasing the angler's control. He pulls harder because the long blank tends to be top heavy. You must pull much harder to exert the same pressure through the long rod as you would require to pull through a short blank. It simply is a case of a shorter lever producing more force with less energy being expended.

Conferring at length recently with Mr. William Shedd, V.P. of the AFTCO Products Co., we both concurred on this theory. In fact, Bill was one step ahead of me. He had already started marketing a shorter version of his already famous aluminum rod butt. Bill felt, as I did, that by shortening the various manufacturers 50 lb. class blanks by 4 to 6 inches, you could increase the rod's power. This technique, coupled with Aftco's new shortened 10 inch lightweight

(Continued on next page.)

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aluminum unibutt formed a sound basis for a new concept in stand-up big game rods. By shortening the butt those three inches or so, the reel and rod were brought closer to the angler. Now, more pressure can be exerted on the fish with a lot less effort. The rod was in a more natural position relative to your arms. Coupled with the proper dropped gimbal fighting belt, the stand-up fisherman could not apply a generous amount of pressure without having to reach for the rod. Here's where the longer foregrip is required. The rod is now some six inches lower than previously experienced. A nine inch foregrip drops below the level that now feels natural for your arms to grasp. I've increased my grips to 14 inches to make up for this deficiency. With the added grip length, it again becomes natural to grab straight in front of body position.

With the whole outfit lowered, your arms are never at an extreme or unnatural position. Each rod pump will allow for maintaining a full flexed relaxed position. Also, you'll find it noticeably easier to double grip your rod for a real boost in pulling power. This while new design allows you the luxury of moving the fish on every pump rather than expending energy as with the soft long rods. The shorter lever your rod has now become, favors you, the angler. It moves to not only overcome the line's strength factor, but telegraphs each command to the fish. He feels the rod's force fully, and will move accordingly. In many instances, a stand-off will occur. This can benefit the angler due to the fact that a tuna must swim to live. Freshwater must flow through his gills so that he may breathe. If you can stall this process, then the fish can be brought to gaff or release much faster. This factor alone can ensure shortened battles. My choice of blank for this outfit is a Fisher 50 lb. heavy or Shakespeare 80 lb. Ugly Stik. The blank's overall length after it's shortened should come in at 62 to 64 inches maximum. This gives the overall rod a total length of 74 inches with the short butt.

When cutting the blanks, power can be increased or decreased by simply cutting the blank from the top or bottom. Suitable reel choices are the Penn 9/0 or 50W International. I step up a class and use 80 lb. dacron or 80 lb. tournament monofilament on my 50W reels. Since each reel will hold at least 500 yrds., this will ensure stopping even the biggest fish. Aftco roller guides featuring the new Aftcote centers, ensures less line wear and will certainly put the advantage on the angler's side. Aftco roller tops finish off the rod. Using this type rod I have stood up and landed bigeyes to 317 lbs., bluefin to 478 lbs. and swordfish to 224 lbs. In each case, the fish were landed within 45 minutes. Smaller fish pose very little problem.

This leads us to the selection of a suitable stand-up fighting harness and belt. There are very few that fill

the bill now on the market. Most will fare well with fish in the 100 lb. range, but add to angler discomfort on fish above this size.

A good belt should be designed not to dig into the angler's groin or stomach. The pressure should be evenly distributed along the belt. The leather styles fail miserably on big fish. Two new and exciting belts are manufactured by Faulkner Sea Products. I've used the Faulkner tuna belt to take several big fish and found it by far the most comfortable stand-up belt ever. As far as fighting the tough fish, this is "the belt."

What makes this belt so comfortable is its dropped gimbal design and generous foam backing. No pressure is exerted on the groin area due to the fact that the belt is designed so the gimbal is dropped below this area. The width and height allow the brunt of the pressure to be absorbed by the upper thighs and along the hip area. No other belt does this so effectively. The smaller shark version or the Play Action style belts fill the bill for the smaller fish. Just remember before purchasing a belt for canyon fishing, that there is a difference. The inshore belt you might find suitable on stripers or blues might not be up to the task of supporting the pressure of canyon species. If there is a choice, select the belt that features a dropped gimbal mount and full across the body support. The belts with pyramid shape backs are suitable for fighting small fish only. The frame of any decent fighting belt should be solid with a moveable pinned gimbal. The frame's back should exhibit generous amounts of medium, stiff foam to ward off digging into your anatomy. You'll pay a little more for the good ones, but when you're standing up on a bigeye you'll be quick to realize your money was well spent.

Suitable shoulder harnesses should feature a comfortable, strong and cool material. It should incorporate a wide range of adjustments. All components should be either stainless or brass to prevent rust. Mesh nylon fabric is best. This garment will withstand the rigors of being put away wet and not rot. It allows air to circulate and relieves discomfort, especially in hot weather. Always strive to adjust your shoulder harness to fit your frame. When a fish hits, it's then just a matter of slipping into the vest and attaching it to your reel.

This also applies to kidney harnesses. A well designed kidney harness should deliver firm, but soft back support when the angler is standing or seated. The better designs have sufficient width in conjunction with wide support belts. The wider belts give added comfort during a prolonged battle. Another important feature should be a quick adjustment strap that can be reached even when the harness is being used.

The motto here is to plan ahead and be ready. Next week, we'll discuss gaffs, selection of fighting chairs, outriggers, and lures.

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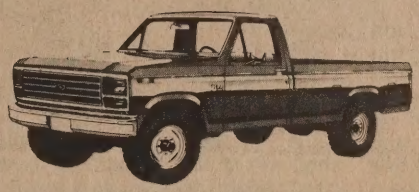

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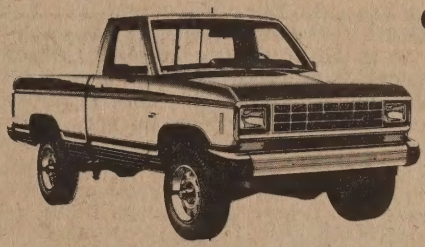

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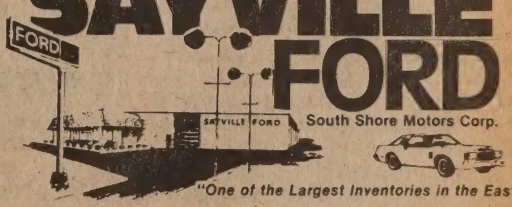

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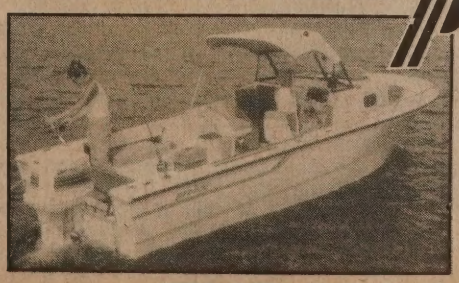

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EXCERPTS FROM A CENTURY AGO

by Uncle John

Reprinted from *The Boys Own Book of Outdoor Sports:* A Healthy Manual for Lovers of the Rod and Gun and the Gymnasium.

The Striped Bass: This excellent fish is found all along the Atlantic coast, from Florida to Maine. It inhabits the rivers, bays, inlets and creeks; and is taken in great abundance, particularly in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. There it frequently grows to the length of three, four, and even five feet, and weighing, in some instances, full one hundred pounds! The striped bass will run up some rivers a hundred miles of more, and in Maine they are found quite plentiful in the Penobscot. In the Connecticut, too, some very fine ones are taken. In winter they still keep their haunts, and do not go into deep water like other fish of similar habits. The word (bass) is said to be a Dutch name, signifying perch; but it little resembles the fish we know by that name. The bass is one of the most beautiful fish in point of color and perfect symmetry that swims, and next to the salmon is the most delicious for the table.

In the spring of the year the striped bass runs up the rivers and into other fresh water places to spawn—and then again late in the fall to shelter. The fall run is the best. It can be taken, however, nearly all the year round and of all sizes.

The apparatus for bass fishing is a pliable rod from 12 to 18 feet in length, according to circumstances. The reel should have 200 to 300 feet of line, which may be made of flax or grass. Silk line is sometimes used. The swivel winker and float should be gauged according to your ground. The leader should be three or four feet in length, with a Limerick or Kirby hook from 0 to 3, according to the size of the fish to be taken. Double leaders are often necessary. Use your own judgment in this respect. In boat fishing, the float is not usually used, and the sinker should be light enough to float off with the tide, but at the same time to touch bottom at all times. By this mode you will get large fish, as the large ones are generally nearest the bottom.

The best place for fishing bass is the quietest place you can find, and at full neap tide. When this tide occurs early in the morning, or late in the afternoon, and if the wind is offshore and a gentle ripple on the water you may take bass very easily, and in abundance. In rivers, get in the exact channel, or over some deep cove, near an outlet of a brook, or some small stream.

In the waters near New York City, the striped bass begins to bite well early in April. At this season shrimp is the best bait, especially in salt water. In fresh water they will bite shad roe at this season. In June you must begin to use soft shell crab though they will usually bite at shrimp until about the first of August. The mode of fishing with crabs differs a little from the other, inasmuch as the bait should now lie on the bottom, whereas in the case of shrimp it is suspended near the bottom. A sliding sinker is now used, and the float dispensed with altogether. About the first of October you again resort to shrimp, as the shell of the crab now begins to harden. The killey fish is also used now, in salt water, w hich is, in fact, preferable to the shrimp for large fish. In fresh water you should use the white opened soft clam. But the bass is very whimsical and dainty. In some places he will jump greedily at a clam bait, while at others he will take nothing but shrimp or crab. There is a beautiful little fish called the spearing which is fished with at certain places in salt water, with great success. In the Hudson River, the largest and finest bass are taken with set lines, as follows: Two stakes are driven in the bottom of the river at a certain distance apart, and a strong cord is stretched across. To this cord is attached short lines at convenient distances, with strong hooks, bated with tom-cod or other small fish. In this way the very largest bass are taken in great abundance.

Trolling for bass is excellent sport, and is practiced a good deal by amateurs. The tackle employed is a strong hand line, and artificial bait is used with good success. This consists of silver plated "spoons," or bits of mother pearl worked into a proper shape and other ingenious contrivances to be had at the fishing-tackle stores. Squid are also an excellent bait for trolling. To fasten the squid to your hook, you should use a needle and waxed linen thread. Take off the skin of the squid, and pull out the spine—then insert the needle through the opening made by the spine, and in this way fasten your hook so the point will pass through near his eye—commence sewing him onto the hook from his tail, and stitch up to his neck. This is so troublesome a process that few sportsmen use it; but very large fish are taken in this manner.

The Sea Bass and Porgy: These salt water fish are caught in immense quantities in the vicinity of New York bay on what are called the Fishing Banks. In the summer months, which is the time for fishing them, steamboats are daily leaving New York to accommodate fishing parties. The tackle used is a hand line of flax or hemp twelve to eighteen fathoms long, with several hooks attached, ten to fifteen inches apart. The hooks for the porgy should be the black fish hook No. 3, and for sea bass, the Kirby pattern, No. 1. Provide yourself with a goodly number of hooks, as you are apt to lose them in various ways. You should have a lead sinker weighing three quarters of a pound or more. Clam bait is the only kind necessary and if you salt it a little bit it will be tougher and stick better to the hook. You should watch your lines cautiously, and jerk them strongly at each bite to hook your fish, or you may lose your bait. The fish thus taken average from one to four and a half pounds, and it frequently happens that two or three are drawn out of the water together. You will thus see the necessity of having very strong tools, and also of wearing an old pair of leather gloves to preserve your hands from blistering while drawing up your fish.

The Weak-fish, or Wheat Fish. This is a sea-fish found only in Northern waters chiefly those of New York and Massachusetts. The head and back is of dark brown color, with a greenish tinge. The sides are of a faint silvery hue, with dusky specks, and the belly is white. Some people suppose the name (weak-fish) to have originated in the apathy of the fish after being hooked, but this is not so, for he frequently makes the most determined and energetic struggles to escape. It is either a perversion of wheat-fish—which name originated in the fact that harvest time is the period to fish them, or else in the peculiar weakness of the muscles of his mouth. He is usually handsome looking, and

is excellent eating, but his flesh is softer than that of some of the best of our pan-fish, which is an objection. The common size of this fish is twelve to fifteen inches in length, though in some instances he grows larger. His feeding ground is the same as the striped bass in salt water, and they are often caught with the bass; but the weak-fish never goes into fresh water. An angler for bass, if not successful, has only to arrange his tackle, and drop his line a little deeper to catch this fish.

The bait used for weak-fish is the shedder-crab and the shrimp, and sometimes he will bite freely at a clam bait. You should fish them at evening tide, when the tide is pretty well in, two hours before sunset. A large No. 1 light Kirby hook, or a slightly curbed Limerick, are the kind used. Tackle similar to that used for bass. Weak-fish are taken very easily, and in great abundance in New York bay, and the water adjacent. Also in the inlets of New Jersey, and in those of Massachusetts.

The Blue Fish: The blue-fish is taken exclusively in salt water, and only through the three summer months, at which time he comes in from the sea. They are generally fished by trolling, though in some places on Long Island, experienced fishermen take them with a rod on shore. The tackle is very easily prepared, and costs but little, and the fish bite readily and are caught without much trouble. A sail boat is necessary, and if you want good sport, you should procure a guide who knows the ground where the blues delight to congregate. A large size cotton line is used, and it should be very strong, and 100 to 150 feet in length. An artificial squid made of bone, mother-of-pearl, or metal, is the tempting bait. It should be four inches long, of flat oval shape, and should have a good sized Kirby hook on the end. The size No. 0000 is about right. The hook must be so placed that its point is on a range with the flat side of the squid. Let the boat be sailed some four or five miles an hour, and should you be able to discover the exact position of the school (they usually go in schools), you must cross and re-cross the spot constantly, as the fish will not generally be moving about. When a fish is struck, the line should be pulled in steadily—do not jerk it, or let it slack, or you may lose your fish. On getting the fish in hand, you can easily shake him off the hook by holding your squid with the hook uppermost. Always haul in your line when tacking the boat, or you may lose your squid in the grass at the bottom. The grounds for blue-fish in the vicinity of New York city are in Fire Island Inlet, South Bay, opposite Babylon and Islip, Long Island, and also in Pine Neck Inlet, opposite Quogue, at the East end of Long Island. Shrewsbury Inlet is also a good place for fishing the blue-fish.

The down-east fishermen use the

(Continued on next page.)

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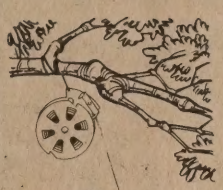

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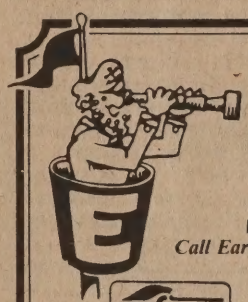

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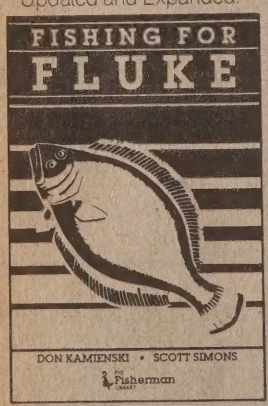

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common pewter spoon, in trolling for blue-fish, which they call a jig. It is used in the same manner as the squid before described. In pulling in the blue-fish, you must not let your line slacken in the least, and you should lift him into the boat the moment he gets alongside. Sportsmen who neglect this precaution will lose full half their fish by their disengaging themselves from the hook.

The blue-fish is singularly erratic in its habits. A century ago it was plentiful on our coast, and was held in high estimation as an article of food. During the last half of the last century and earlier years of this, it disappeared entirely. within forty years it has returned, first appearing on the coast south of Cape Cod, near Natucket, New Bedford and Martha's Vineyard. In course of time it made its way into Massachusetts Bay, and appears to be gradually working to the northward. They have passed Cape Ann within a year or two, though not in great numbers, and a few have been seen as far north as the Isle of Shoals, off Portsmouth. They are very plentiful off Montauk Point, Long Island.

The blue-fish belongs to the mackerel family. The upper part of his body is of a bluish color, whence his name; the lower part of the sides and the belly are whitish or silvery.

The Black Fish: This fish was called the tautog by the Indians. It is caught in the vicinity of Massachusetts and New York Bays, in Long Island Sound, and in nearly all the inlets of Rhode Island. Of late years, black fish have increased in numbers, notwithstanding the numbers caught to supply the Boston and New York markets. The upper end of Long Island is a famous place to catch them. Their feeding ground is generally on rocky bottoms, and reefs, though they are caught in other places. It is a singular fact that those found close in on rocky reefs are shorter or more chubby, and of a darker color, than those that sport in the running tide. The color is a deep bluish black on the back and sides, with light belly. The usual size of the black fish varies from one to three pounds, though larger ones have been caught. Eight and ten pounders are reported to have been taken in Rhode Island.

Black fish are usually caught with hand lines from a boat, though your true sportsman prefers his rod—a stiff one some twelve or fifteen feet long. A flax line of ten to thirty yards in length, with slide sinker, and triple gut snells, is all that you want. You can dispense with the gut if you wish, as the fish is not timid or wary, and a plain flax leader of ten to fifteen inches in length, will answer. You can catch them with almost any kind of a hook from No. 10 downwards. They frequent eddies made by the running tide, and there watch for shrimps or small crabs. By dropping your line back, and letting it run with the tide through an eddy, you are generally successful. As soon as the fish bites in earnest, pull up, starting your pull by a quick motion to fasten the hook in his mouth, which is tough and hard. The baits used are shrimp, soft crab, shedder lobster, soft clam, ordinary clam, etc. The crabs and lobsters are the best. If a thunder storm comes up while you are fishing for black fish, you may as well go home, as you will not be apt to catch any more that day. A school of porpoises will frighten them so that they will leave for the day. There is a good deal of sport in catching black fish, his bite is so earnest, and he is so readily taken. In hand line fishing, many sportsmen have a brass ring at the end of their line, and to it they fasten two or three leaders, of different lengths, sometimes catching two fish at a time by this means.

Codfish: This salt water fish is caught in great abundance in the vicinity of Boston, Massachusetts, and on the Great Banks. It swims in immense schools, and is very easily taken. In the spring the cod will bite in the most greedy manner, and if your tackle be strong enough, you can catch enormous quantities, and of very large size. The mud clam, or the moss bunker, either of them will answer for bait. Your line should be very stout, and made of cotton or hemp, 100 to 150 feet long, with the largest size black-fish hook, or a regular cod hook of small size. The sinker should weigh two or three pounds. Cod are not at all particular, and are not easily frightened. It sometimes happens that one may be lost off the hook by tearing the cartilege of his mouth. This same fish, with his mutilated muzzle, will be just as apt to bite again the next moment. They are fished for with hand lines, from boats, in all cases.

The Flounder: This is an odd-looking fish, his belly being on one side and his back on the other. He is shaped something like the sun-fish or pumpkin seed, and on the edges, where the belly and back of an ordinary fish would naturally be, he has continuous fins from neck to tail. The back is of a dark color, both eyes being on that side, and gauged to look upwards at an angle about one-fifth forward from perpendicular; and his belly is usually white. The size of the flounder varies from five to fifteen, and sometimes to twenty-four inches in length, the breadth being about one-half the length. Their feeding ground is the soft mud of the bottom, near to bridge spiles, docks, and other bottom incumbrances, and they are sometimes found on bass grounds. They feed on the spawn of fishes, and on muscles and insects.

The time for fishing the flounder is the spring and fall months. In the summer he may be taken, but his flesh is soft and unwholesome. He will bite at almost anything used in salt water for fish bait, and in fishing him you may use any kind of tackle. A small hook is however necessary—No. 8 being the usual size. Flounders

are an excellent pan fish; but they should be cooked as soon as possible after being taken. They are very plentiful on the shores of Long Island Sound, in New York Bay, and in the inlets of New Jersey. The Boston market is abundantly supplied with them from the numerous fishing grounds of that neighborhood.

The mackerel: This fish is seldom sought after by amateur anglers, for the reason that he does not frequent bays or inlets, but is found only in the broad ocean. He is nevertheless a game fish, and his capture affords a great deal of sport. The professional fishermen describe the mackerel as the handsomest fish that swims, and the most active on the hook. The season to fish mackerel commences about the first of May. A fishing smack, which can cruise with safety "out at sea," must be procured, and an experienced fisherman who knows the haunts of mackerel, should be engaged. The hook used is called the mackerel hook. It is about the size of No. 0 Limerick salmon, but shaped a little different. The necessary bait is only a piece of red flannel or red cloth. They can also be taken by trolling, with a tin squid, or jig. This is an oblong piece of bright block tin, with a hook fastened on the end of it, and a swivel on the end of your line. The tin skitters along on the surface, and, being mistaken by the mackerel for a shiner, he darts at it and is instantly hooked. The sport is excellent, as the fish bites so readily and so fiercely.

Shark, and Devil Fishing: Shark fishing is a stupendous sport resorted to by persons who have a hankering after excitement. Parties who go on shark-fishing expeditions, engage a vessel for the purpose, together with experienced hands as assistants. The ship-chandler furnishes them with lines, while a blacksmith is engaged to make hooks, swivels, etc., of the sizes wanted. The line is a strong hemp cord made for the purpose, and hooks of various patterns are used. Almost any shaped hook will catch a shark, provided it is strong enough to hold him. When you get to your sharking ground, you launch your small boat, and tie your line to the stern. The hook should be fastened to it by a chain and swivel, and is baited with a good sized piece of beef or pork. You then row your boat along rapidly until you get a bite. Do not get too far from your vessel, as when you once get a bite, and hook the monster, you must bring him along side before you attempt to land him, or he may upset you in his wrath.

Catching the devil-fish is a favorite amusement of the South Carolinians. These monsters frequent the sounds and inlets thereabout in schools, and are killed in various ways—by harpooning, shooting, etc. The sizes of the fish thus taken are from twenty to thirty feet long. After being struck with a harpoon, the devil-fish will sometimes run many miles, towing a boat full of men after him. The sport of taking them is very exciting.

Revenge 25

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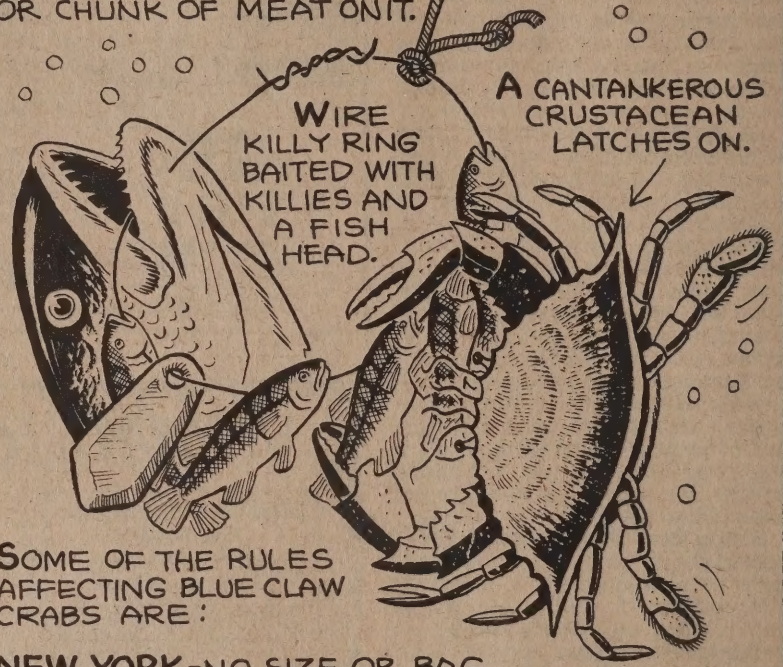

SOME OF THE RULES AFFECTING BLUE CLAW CRABS ARE:

NEW YORK- NO SIZE OR BAG LIMIT OR GEAR RESTRICTIONS, BUT *NO FEMALES BEARING EGGS (SPONGE CRABS)* MAY BE TAKEN AND THIS RULE APPLIES TO NEW JERSEY AND CONNECTICUT AS WELL.

NEW JERSEY- A *"PEELER"* OR SHEDDER CRAB MUST BE 3-INCHES FROM TIP TO TIP, 3½-INCHES WHEN SOFT SHELLED AND 4-INCHES WHEN HARD. TRAPS, SCOOPNETS AND HANDLINES MAY BE USED, BUT NO MORE THAN TWO (2) CRAB POTS IN ALL WATERS.

CONNECTICUT- HARD SHELL CRABS MUST BE 5-INCHES TIP TO TIP, SOFTSHELLS 3½-INCHES. NO BAG LIMIT BUT THERE IS A SEASON, MAY 1-NOV. 30.

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East End REPORT
with Stu Miller

Offshore fishing is the big news on the east end of the island with lots of sharks accomodating the big game crowd and some good action underway at Block Canyon. On the inshore scene, a mixed bag of porgies, fluke, sea bass and flounder remains the big ticket item. Bassfishing from Shinnecock to Montauk continues to be slow.

MONTAUK

There's been some mighty good codfishing at Coxes Ledge said Captain Forsberg of the **Viking Fleet** with plenty of 8-15 lbers. being caught with fares averaging 10-15 fish a man. Pool fish have been going 25 lbs. and up every weekend. The half day fluke trips have been productive all week, but went down in numbers on the weekend with the moon tide. Action is in North Rips on squid, sand eels and spearing. No midgets. A few big sea bass are mixed in. Porgy anglers are averaging 10-15 a man with Sunday's catch consisting of medium and large fish. The last Nantucket wreck trip will be July 4th and the skipper says he still has a few openings left. The **Starlight** will be making an experimental run Friday to Nomans Land to see if the elusive killer porgies have move in yet. You may call and reserve a spot if you want to be in on these experimental porgy hunts. The night bluefishing on the **Viking Fleet** will start July 1st.

Pool winners on a recent Georges Bank trip aboard the "Viking Starship" included John Gray, 59 lb. hake; Hank Lockman, 57 lb. cod; Steve Singelan, 54 lb. cod and Pete Russo, 26 lb. halibut.

The word from Captain Dusty of the open boat **Little Bear** is that his 15 fares on Sunday had very good porgy fishing for the present time of year to the tune of 25-30 medium/large porgies a man, fishing the east side of Gardiner's.

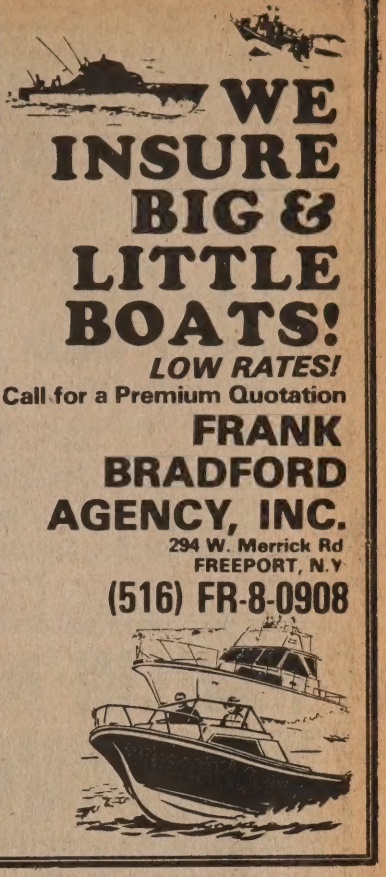
A call from charter boats **Blue Fin I** and **IV**, Captain Mike Potts, passed on the information that he had 400 to 800 lbs. of mackerel per trip during the week and that big bluefish have started to slam bait and artificials. On the weekend, the boats fished the Kerns group and the Stapleton party, each trip filling the box with roughly 50 blues in teh 12 to 14 lb. class working just south of Cartwright. Umbrellas were trolled high.

Captain Bud Dorman of the 6 man limit open boat **Waxed** reported fishing is fairly consistent for his customers with the exception of Friday. Customers had the opportunity to fill their 5 gal. buckets each day. Many did, with 2-3 lb. porgies. The first prerequisite to catching is 12-15 lb. test mono which enables the angler to fish in the strongest tides. Bud stated he will show anyone aboard his boat the secret to catching porgies, even in moon tides. There is a knack to it. Fishing in the full moon tide at the Point, Sunday, Capt. Bud had well over a full five gallon bucket for his own individual effort. Fish ranged in the 1½ to 3 lb. range.

We hear from Skipper Jack Passie of the charter boat **Windy** that Thursday's charter tagged and released 11 blue shark in the 50-200 lb. range. This was at the eastern edge of the Butterfish Hole. Charters also had one bass every night from Wednesday through Saturday nights in the 28-30 lb. class on trolled plugs at Pollack Rip and Great Eastern. Twenty was the tag and release score for blue shark on Saturday's trip with one going an estimated 300 lbs. with an estimated 11 foot length. Lots of life out there, said Jack and swords are being spotted every day.

Aboard the **Marlin Fleet** fluke catches are improving on a daily basis to the tune of 5 to 10 keepers a man with action in the North Rips on sand eels, spearing and squid. Porgy catches are averaging 10-20 a man which is not red hot but things are improving daily working Gardiner's and off the Point. With the boat now night bluefishing every night at 7PM, Saturday night's trip had 17 fares with over 200 choppers, 8-14 lbs. while Sunday night's trip for 20 fares had 380 blues, same size, all in Block Island waters.

To the west in **Sag Harbor**, Captain Artie Lach of the **Wilhelric II** sailed his first fluke trip of the season Wednesday working Truman's and Horton's in the Sound, taking approximately 150 keeper fluke for 15 people. Jack Gleason and three pals totalled 47 fluke to 5½ lbs. on squid



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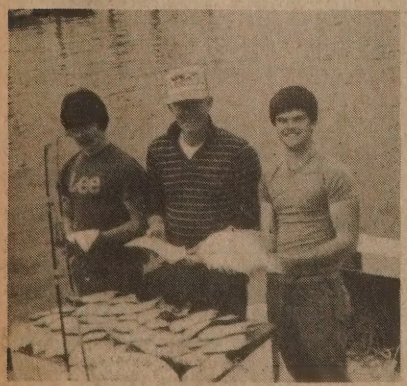
and sand eels. Thursday and Friday there was an upswing in the porgy action but it died Saturday afternoon with the wind. Sunday bounced back at Gardiner's and north of Plum Island. Lots of squid and sand eels in the Sound and Artie says it should be a super fluke year.

Capt. Ron Grandinetti of the charter boat **Julie III** fished 2 inshore charters on Friday and Saturday and wound up each days catch with well over 100 porgies as well as a mixture of sea bass and blackfish. Friday's fishing for a party headed by Mike Kay was done at Gardiners while on Saturday, George Acosta's party found their action at Pocketbook Ledge. On Sunday, the skipper took a group headed by Tyrone Lewis to the sub buoy where they loaded up with mackerel. They finished off the day at Great Eastern with 65 porgies.

Capt. Gene Kelly of the **Kellyboat** has been spending some time offshore. He had 15 blue sharks, a 178 pound mako for a weekday charter. On Saturday, he put a charter on a 96 pound mako along with a load of blue sharks. Gene has been working the 40 fathom curve where he also trolled a pair of 30 pound albacore on the ride home Saturday.

Members of a party from Fortress Maintenance loaded up on mackerel south of the light on Friday's charter aboard Capt. Wayne King's **King Wayne**. On Saturday, Jim Ferguson and friends mixed up the day south of Cartwright by taking 15 cod to 20 pounds on clam bait and trolling 24 blues to 14 pounds. On an offshore charter Sunday, Robert Boyle's party accounted for 10 blue sharks to 200 pounds. They also saw tuna on the surface and tried to bait a white marlin during the ride home but the billfish refused to cooperate.

Capt. Phil Lewis of the charter boat **Adios** had more than his share of encounters with ornery makos and swordfish this week. Taking a busman's holiday during the week, he made a run to the canyon where he put away 5 big eyes between 150 and 285 pounds along with a mess of



The O'Leary boys put away 41 nice flounder on a recent trip aboard the Montauk charter boat, "Nostalgia II." Fishing was done at Rocky Point.

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albacore. He and his crew also baited a swordfish which picked up a bait but didn't stay. On the return trip, the skipper watched a mako and a sword engaged in mortal combat and while there was still something for the taking, he moved in and separated a beheaded swordfish from the victorious mako. On Sunday, a 200 pound mako which was taken by the day's charter was obviously on the short end of a similar battle. The shark contained a swordfish bill which was run clear through its belly section. Scar tissue had already formed around the bill when the fish was caught. Frank Purcell took a 100 pound mako aboard the boat on Friday while Saturday's offshore charter resulted in lots and lots of blue shark action.

Deep Sea Club members Barbara and Chester Wolfe worked the 35 fathom line on Sunday aboard their boat Sea Wolfe. The result was a pile of blue sharks but also a 121 pound mako taken by Barbara.

There were at least a couple of big stripers taken at Montauk over the weekend according to Maureen Senfelder of **Gone Fishing Marina**. She knew that Capt. Bob Rochetta aboard his charter boat **Rainbow** found stripers of 27 and 30 pounds, along with a bluefish and a weakfish for Bill Sutorius, Ken Janousek, Dom Cassetta and Mike Berg. The fish were trolled on plugs at Great Eastern Saturday PM. She also relayed word that the **Nostalgia II** loaded up with big mackerel near Block Island on Sunday. Same day, Water Sanne and friends tagged and released 12 blue sharks at the butterfish hole, 12 miles south of the point. Fluke fishing has shown sighn of improving in the north rips, still nice flounder and blackfish at North Bar and a pretty good showing of porgies at Great Eastern.

Representatives for Shimano Tackle Company headed by V.P. Kat

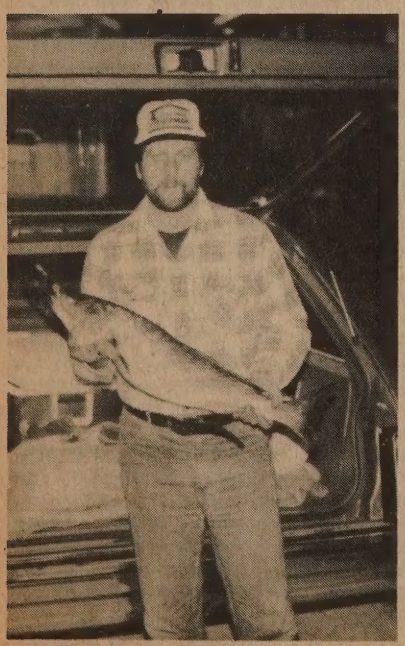
Shitanisi spent 2 days with Capt. Joe McBride aboard his **My Mate**. Sampling the inshore fishing on Saturday, the group put a load of mackerel and some flounder in the box. On Sunday, the tackle reps gave some Shimano light tackle gear a work out on big blue sharks. Also hooked during the day was an est. 350 pound mako which was dropped after a 45 minute battle and two spectacular jumps. Fishing was done 20 miles SE of the point.

A double header hook up of makos was the highlight of Robert Parke's Thursday charter aboard Capt. Chuck Mallinson's charter boat **Joy Sea**. One of the fish, a 292 pounder stayed. In addition there was plenty of blue shark action. The skipper reported that blue sharks, many in the 100-200 range kept his Saturday and Sunday charters busy.

SOUTH FORK

Plenty of blues still spread throughout the area according to Chris Salb of **Bayview Marine and Tackle** in **Sag Harbor**. Porgy fishing continues good at buoy 11 and Cedar Point with worms working best but squid and clams also accounting for fish. Local bass sharpie Dennis Kelly ran his 23' Seacraft over to Plum Gut last Wednesday where he put away a 50 pound striper. Dennis currently holds the 80 pound class record for stripers, set last year with his 66½ pounder.

Good porgy fishing between buoys 16 and 17 according to Helen Jacobsen of **Noyac Marina** in Noyac. Some big blowfish are also in the



LIF subscriber Michael Fuchs shows the 8.4 lb. weakfish he decked aboard the Sag Harbor open boat "Wilhelric II."

SAG HARBOR

FLUKE
TUES & WEDS

★

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PORGIES
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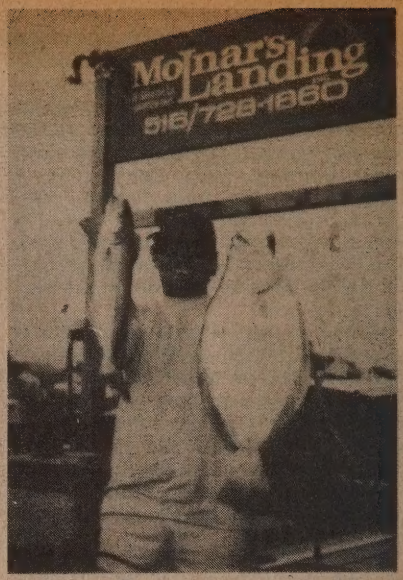
Cathy and Mike D'Allessio with a nice catch of Moriches Bay flatties taken on a trip out of Silly Lily Fishing Station.



George Barkas checked this 8¾ lb. doormat at Molnar's Landing in Hampton Bays. It was taken in Shinnecock Inlet.

area. Small blues continue to be a big attraction as they seem to be everywhere. Weakfishing has been disappointing but a few summer run fish are being taken.

Thom Speckenbach at **Speck's Tackle Shop** in **Southampton** echoed reports of good porgy fishing in Noyac Bay and at Cedar Point. He too reported blues throughout all of the bays as well as in Shinnecock Inlet. As for fluke, Thom suggested East and West Channel in Shinnecock Bay. Offshore fishing attracted lots of attention this past week with nearly everyone who ran off reporting hordes of blue sharks. Some makos were taken as well south of Shinnecock.

Capt. Ken Malone who keeps his open boat **Jenny Rose** berthed on the Shinnecock Canal made his first offshore wreck trip this past Saturday. The results for a group of 8 anglers included over 250 sea bass, 50 ling and some blackfish. The skipper will continue these special trips every Saturday, weather permitting. Fluke fishing has been pretty good in Shinnecock Bay and porgies have been abliging in Peconic Bay. Occasional weakfish are mixed with the porgies.

Jim Ciccone ran his 19½' Aquasport, **Osprey**, SE of Shinnecock Inlet to 170' of water a week ago Saturday. His first offshore trip of the season payed off handsomely as a 375 pound mako decided to take a bunker bait rigged on 50 pound tackle. The big shark was fought standing up for 1½ hours before succumbing to the pressure. All that remained for Jim and his partner Harold Smith was a 3 hour tow back to port. Jim hails from West Islip.

Capt. Fred of the **Hampton Bays** charter boat, **Sea Mist** reported blue sharks all over south of Shinnecock Inlet. He figured that Saturday's

charter from JTJ Industries totalled nearly 30 of them. A number were in the 130-140 pound classs. The skipper also reported plenty of bluefish residing in 130-140' of water south of the inlet.

South Shore REPORT

with Fred Golofaro

Here as in most other parts of the Island, many anglers have shifted their attention to the offshore scene where large numbers of sharks have been providing big game fishermen with some of the best sharking in years. In Moriches Bay, flounder are still getting more attention than the fluke with fluking rated as fair by most of those polled. In Great South Bay fluking has been far from red hot but a showing of better size fish has improved the outlook in this area. Also encouraging is the showing of an apparently large body of big bluefish southeast of F.I. Inlet from 80' of water on out. A few bass were taken on this past weekends moon in both Fire Island and Moriches Inlets.

MORICHES BAY & INLET

Speaking from **L & M Marine** in **East Moriches**, Jim Green reported that the charter boat **Tender Loving Care** returned to the station on Friday with a 358 pound mako for a party headed by Jim Griffin. Len Briggs and Paul Sosianos took turns on the rod with the big shark. In addition, a pair of makos in the 200 pound class were dropped during the day. Capt. Tony Rizzo told Jim that fishing was done south of the Inlet. Inside the bay, Jim called the overall fluking slow but said that flounder continue very good at buoys 36 and 39. Fish are mixed in size to 1½ pounds. Most boats that worked incoming tide on the weekend finished up with between 60 and 100 fish on the weekend. On Sunday, Paul Godsden and friends finished up with over 100 flatties to a pound and a half.

Bob Mignery of **Hi-Way Fishing Station** put a 55 pound striper on the scale for Kurt Roeloffs on Saturday morning. The big cow was taken aboard the Doctor's boat "Contact" which he keeps at the station. It was taken at the inlet on a live flounder. Another impressive fish which graced the scales at the station on Saturday included the 530 pound mako taken aboard Rich DeChiaro's "Night Heron". Tom Tobin was on the rod for the 45 minute battle which took place in

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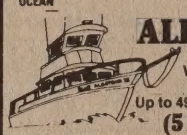

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180' of water. Bob reminded that flounder fishing remained in good form although some smaller fish are mixing in. He suggested working between buoys 34 and 38 on incoming water. Fluking has been on the slow side. Very good flounder fishing and some fluke around make it possible for anglers to mix up the day according to Jim DeVita of **Skidmored Fishing Station** in **East Moriches**. On Saturday, Henry Siuda, his son Eric and Charlie Budzilek and his son Ted along with Joe Kochanski loaded over 200 flounder into their skiff north of buoy 39. Same day, Matt Viol and Joe Sander worked on the fluke east of buoy 42. Before the wind came up the pair managed a dozen keepers. Flounder action slowed on Sunday according to Jim yet some boats still managed 50-60 fish for the day. Eli Pepper worked the south end of Bird Island with spearing and squid and returned with 9 keeper fluke. Still lots of small blues roaming the bay. They are being taken on small diamond jigs like the AVA 007 or Hopkin's.

Gary Grunseich of **Silly Lilly Fishing Station** repeated what others had said. Lots of flounder still being taken but some smaller fish mixing in. Best bet has been at buoys 36 and 39 near the top of the tide with both bloodworms and dyed clams being effective. On Sunday, Joe Spitalieri and two friends accounted for 72 keepers near buoy 39. Fluking has improved somewhat between buoys 38 and 42. One of the station's regulars who goes by the name of Andy racked up 12 keepers one day during the week with 3 of the fish falling into the 3-4 pound class. Lots of 1-3 pound blues still roaming the bay. Just look for the birds, according to Gary.

GREAT SOUTH BAY/ FIRE ISLAND INLET

Some decent sized fluke around this past week with very few shorts mixed in according to George Ruland of **J & J Tackle** in **Patchogue**. George spoke of the east side of Smith Point Bridge along with West Channel and Ocean Beach to the west. Small blues continue to be in good supply in F.I. Inlet and near the Smith Point Bridge. One to three pound weaks being taken off of Brown's River and Nichols Point on small single hooked diamond jigs with a strip of squid or night crawler. Lots of nice crabs around being taken by those using traps and bunker from local docks. And still some decent trout being taken from East and West Lake.

Vinnie at **South Bay Fishing Station** spoke of plenty of 1-2 pound weaks between buoys 12 and 17 on squid strips and jelly worms. Jim and Matt Walsh had a load of small weaks Saturday morning before the blow. Fluke are in the same area and small blues continue to provide quite a bit of

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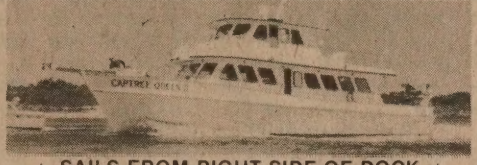

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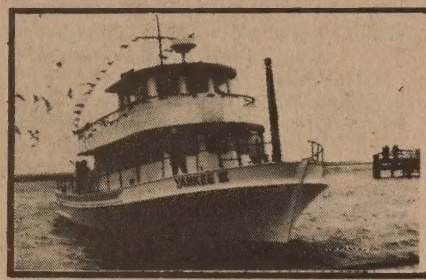

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action inside the bay. Vinnie too, spoke of lots of good sized crabs around.

Over at **J & R Sports Center** in **Oakdale**, John "Rod" DiGiacomo said that fluking remained on the slow side most of the week but some larger fish did show. Small weaks are off Heckscher and Sayville on squid strips while plenty of 2-4 pound blues are in the bay for pluggers and at the inlet for jiggers and trollers. Big blues are camped in 85-110' of water SE of the Inlet and there is lots of very good sharking going on with mostly blue sharks but some makos being taken as well.

Mike Cioffi of **Peppy's Tackle Shop** in **East Islip** called the fluking so-so with less shorts around this week. Plenty of small blues in the bay for pluggers working off of Bay Shore and Sexton Island and also being taken at the Inlet by trollers. Big blues in 80-85 feet of water SE of the Inlet. Mike noted that most anglers have shifted their interests to the offshore waters where sharking has been very good.

From **Smokey's Tackle Shop** in **Bay Shore**, Carl Miller said that some boatmen enjoyed a fair pick of fluke in West Channel this week. The fish were bigger than in past weeks. He did weigh an 8 pounder which was taken at the inlet during the week. Carl knew that a couple of regulars have been taking 4-5 school bass per tide on clam bellies in the Sate Channel. Carl has an adequate supply of clam chum in stock for those looking for it. Small blues, 2-4 pounds on AVA 007's at the Inlet. One guy managed to cull a 20 pound striper from amongst all the blues. Another boatman who chummed with shrimp in back of buoy 8 reported 5 weaks and a load of big blackfish to 8½ pounds. Carl knew of lots of big blues chummed in 110' of water, 155 degrees from the inlet during the week. On Wednesday, the boat "Stinky Stogey" returned with a bunch of big blues taken in 80' of water on jigs. Crabbing in the Bay Shore area continues to be very good.

Over at **Captree**, Noel Kappauf told of weighing some respectable fluke over the weekend. Among them were Joe Mollick's 5.10 pounder taken aboard the **Capt. Leitch**. Justin Honicker's 4.1 pounder taken on the **Speedy VII**, and Bill Joyce's 5.4 pounder taken aboard a private boat near the inlet. Noel noted the improved size of the fish being taken and also reminded that some big weaks were taken near the lighthouse during the week. Small blues are spread from West Channel to the Inlet and can usually be found on the surface mornings and evenings.

Capt. Speedy Hubert of the **Speedy VI** labelled the fluking fair with some decent sized fish taken on the weekend and less shorts than they had been catching. Speedy asked that we remind customers that they will be switching over to blues 7AM and 7PM daily on Wednesday (6/29). It looks as if a large body of big fish may be settling in on the old Patchogue grounds SE of F.I. Inlet. Everyone is keeping their fingers crossed at this point.

Capt. Charlie Kennedy of the **Capt. Joseph II** reported a good day Friday with the fluke but said that the weekend left quite a bit to be desired. Saturday was slow but he did have 4 fish in the 4 pound class aboard the boat. Sunday was an improvement over Saturday with most of the fishing being done in the State Channel. Of the 200 keepers taken Charlie thought half were nice fish in the 2-2½ pound range. Everyone managed a few fish. Good reports of bluefish all week long SE of the Inlet. This prompted the skipper to make his first night bluefish run this Wednesday at 7PM. Many of the fish being taken have been in the 10-15 pound class.

The charter boat **Lady Ann**, skipper ed by Capt. Tom Burke worked over the fluke with fair results on Saturday and Sunday. He concentrated his efforts in the State Channel between Lindenhurst and Gilgo, finding better sized fish to the west. On Sunday, Steve Carr not only headed the charter but copped the pool with a 5½ pounder.

Capt. Gordon Roman of the charter boat **Captree Queen** said that fluking over the weekend was generally slow but on Friday and Sunday a shot of larger fish spiced the otherwise picky action. Saturday was an especially tough day due to the strong northerly gale. He too will be switching over to blues beginning Friday at 7PM. The 7AM fluke trips will continue on a daily basis.

Capt. Bill Russo of the charter boat **Prime Time** put a party headed by John Makris on a flurry of fluke action near the WR Buoy on Saturday. Switching over to flounder at the Sore Thumb on the afternoon tide fares rounded off their bags with a good catch of flounder. Taking a similar tact on Sunday for the Jerry Logodice party didn't pan out quite as well. The fluking was off but flounder fishing was again very good.

Capt. Ed Laske of the charter boat **Dixie** worked the Ocean Beach grounds on the weekend and found the average size fluke to be considerably larger than last week. A pair of flatties went over 5 pounds on Saturday's trip and each day saw a number of 3 pound fluke taken.

Mickey Chiarenza of **Augie's Bait and Tackle** in **Babylon** filled us in on some of the details of the Bay Shore Mako Tournament held this past Saturday and Sunday. There were a good number of makos including quite a few in the 200 pound range taken over the two days. Augie's fishing team left their mark on the affair. On Saturday, Artie Orlando aboard his Fast Eddie whipped a 492 pound dusky. He was outdone the next day by Bill Trentacosta who put a 663 pound dusky aboard Dick Orlandi's Three Sons. Joe Rubino's Misty Helm which flies the bergie of the Babylon Tuna Club but was fishing unattached apparently topped the mako division with a 400 pounder. Mickey also spoke of big bluefish found in 80' of water SE of the Inlet. He knew that the private boat TRhree

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Hearts did well with the fish on Saturday and Sunday with umbrella rigs. A few bass are being taken on live eels down at the Inlet. Don Urbanski weighed in a 33.10 pounder during the week. The private boat Libra which connected with a 220-plus pound swordfish last weekend at the canyon put away 3 two hundred pound big eyes, 3 or 4 yellowfins and a bunch of albacore at the Fish Tails this weekend.

Mike Andreani of **Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle** said that Vincent Lange and Bob Rosenberg put away 13 nice fluke on live killies near buoy 6 on Sunday. The current leader in the fluke division in the shop's "Ladie's Only" contest is Phyllis Cappiello with a 3 pounder. Plenty of small blues spread anywhere from the lighthouse to the Inlet with AVA 007 jigs the most popular item with the choppers. There were a couple of good weakfish scores made over the weekend with the deadly combination proving to be a black jelly worm and lead head fished behind a feather teaser. Small bass are being clam chummed in the State Channel and crabbing from local docks has been excellent both in size and quantity.

From **Combs Tackle Shop** in **Amityville**, Marie spoke of fair fluking in Snake Creek, in the State Channel and at West Island. Small blues remain thick near Fire Island Inlet where they are being trolled and jigged and there are still blackfish at the 2nd bridge along with some flounder. Rumor has it that there are some bass around.

West End REPORT

with Stu Miller

Flounder and fluke continue to be the inshore staples this week while in the 30 to 40 foot depths small to medium bluefish are being umbrellaed. A little further out the blues are plentiful and there are some real brutes in the sharking depths. The canyon is producing various tunas in good numbers and the offshore picture looks good and promises to become very strong.

WEST END BAYS/ JONE'S INLET

From **Lon Wansers Bait and Tackle** we learn of good fluke catches in Massapequa Cove and Four Corners along with the area of the 2nd Wantagh Bridge. There's about a 50 percent keeper ratio with lots of keepers and lots of shorts. Flounder

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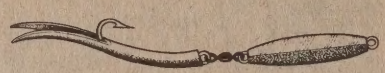

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continue to be caught in the deeper holes such as those off the 3rd Wantagh and the Meadowbrook bridge. An occasional weak and bass is being chummed at the bridges by various methods and baits along with white bucktails bumped along the bottom. Blue claws have gotten off to a fairly good start and there are small blues around the inlets, mainly mornings and evenings.

From **Pop's Fishing Station** we hear that the skiffs are returning with good catches of fluke or flounder. Best flounder is aorund the Meadowbrook Bridge and the best skiff catches are fluke have been from both sides of the Wantagh Bridge. A few blue claws seem to be on every skiff coming back in. Bob and Julie Ann Farrell, along with Joe Rirdan and 35 flounder to 2¼ lbs. fishing around the Jones Beach piers. Darlene and Paul Curcio fishing with Carol and Bob Bauer hoisted 12 keeper fluke to 3½ lbs. fishing from Four Corners to the second bridge on the west side. Skiffs are averaging 6 fluke per boat on the weekend with a one-third keeper ratio. Plenty of action available and the authorities are making frequent check of the sizes of fluke being kept.

Also out of **Seaford, Capt. Eddie's Fishing Station** reported that John Gracy pulled 22 fluke on sand eels and squid at Squaw Saturday as did Ken Katzer with 18 fluke. Plenty of bccs at the town dock . Flounder pounder Ken Ryan had a pailful of 1-1½ lb. flatties working the south side from the Jones Beach piers to the M Bridge.

We hear from Jimmy at **Merrick Tackle** in **Belmore** that squid spearing combos are attracting plenty of keeper fluke in the bays. Small blues are appearing dawn and dusk at the inlets and are hitting tins, poppers, and Rebels. Some flounder still being caught in the Meadowbrook area on worms and clam chum and there have been catches of tuna at the canyon, though no details were provided.

Over in **Merrick**, Jimmy at **Nick's Fishing Station** said that while fluking was good through Friday it slowed on the weekend, no doubt due to the wind and heavy boat traffic. However some good catches were still made at Merrick Point on killies and squid. Flounder still around to be caught in Swift Creek and off the CG station and in the deep holes in Sloop Channel off the piers. Some cocktail blues in the 2 lb. range in 35 to 40 feet of water on small umbrellas. Some schoolie bass being chummed at the bridges at night and in the morning, including a few that Dennis Newman was getting on clam bellies and chum when we called for this report.

Getting to the boats out of **Freeport**, we hear from the **Capt. Al** that on Saturday approximately 1200 blues were caught with typical catches such as Santos Rosa of the Bronx with 60, Ralph Martinez of the Bronx with 52, Carl Saks with 45 blues, Gil Acosta, Bronx with 45, Willie Fickling, Roosevelt, and Mike

BAIT & TACKLE

H. Watanabe and Ohyoshi Susumu with doormats of 8.15 and 7.1 lbs. taken on a recent trip aboard the Freeport charter boat "Blue Fin."

Venezia, Queens Village, 55. Fish ran 3-10 lbs. on jigs. Over 600 blues were taken Saturday night. There was an excellent catch Friday night as well. This is all local fishing just an hour from the inlet. Customers had full bags on Sunday's trip also.

Also now sailing a full day and night sailing schedule is the **Starstream II**. Catches were excellent Thursday, okay Friday and a slaughter on Saturday with a typical catch 85 the high hook score for Joe Martin of Ossining, NY. Fares picked away all day Sunday. High hook was 25 blues. This has all been on diamond jigs either with or without tails.

The **Bluefin Fleet** spent Saturady fluking for Manufacturers Hanover with 150 keepers the total out of roughly 250 caught along the local beaches. Fish were up to 4 lbs. and averaged 16 to 17 inch fish. Artie Ferramosca took the pool while high hook honors were shared by Bill Ingram and John Skatas, with 8 keeper fluke each. Approximately 200 blues were taken for Sunday's trip, fish in the 3-9 lb. range all on jigs either with or without tubes. Action was SW of Jones. High hook was in the teens. This was the first bluefish trip of the year and results were great. The fleet still has a few night blue dates available.

A fantastic weekend with lots of shark was the word from **Lou's Fishing Station**. Lots of makos. The area of the Virginia Wreck and south of Moriches Inlet in 140 to 165 feet of water were the spots. Several makos were weighed in such as Sal Offner's 368 lb. mako caught Saturday. Sandra Kryuck fishing on the Sandra K took a 275 lb. mako. A 214 mako fell victim to Bruce Sucher of Oceanside on his boat Betty Boop. Excellent bluefishing from Three Sisters to as far as the Mud Hole both day and night. Blues are also being trolled in 30 feet of water on umbrellas. Good fluking was

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Bob Dorsch with a 13 lb. striper and Ronnie Blum with a 4 lb. fluke. Both were taken along with a box full of blues at the Tin Can Grounds. Photo courtesy of Skippy's Bait & Tackle in East Rockaway.

had Wednesday through Saturday off Riis Park and Ambrose and inside Jones Inlet. The **Capt. Andy** mohawked flounder with Capt. Bob Nagy at the wheel working the Meadowbrook area and Swift Creek. One and a half to 2 lb. sea bass have been good on inshore wrecks while Block Canyon and the Fingers have produced big eye tuna.

We hear from the **Capt. Lou Fleet** of good fluking all week on both boats. Pools have been going to 5 lbs. On the **CL III** high hook has been in the teens during the week. There's a 50 percent keeper ratio and Saturday saw a very solid catch in the ocean off Riis Park. The 4:30PM flounder trips on the **CL III** have been very productive. On Wednesday John DeRosa had 35 flounder, Thursday Kevin Benson of Bethpage packed away 39 and Friday 37 was the score for Young Kim, Planview and big flounder of the week was a 3½ lb. giant.

From Ronnie Feuring at **Sea Isle Sports** we hear further that sharkers are being blitzed by big blues offshore in big numbers. Big eye yellowfin and long fin tuna providing a lot of action at the Canyon on Jetheads, Yaps, and rubber squid chains. Lots of blue and mako shark and big blues SE of Jones in 180 ft. of water.

Aboard the charter boat **Nicki B** Saturday's group umbrellaed 40 blues in 85 ft. of water SE of the inlet, fish 4-10 lbs. Sunday's group scored with 60 blues, same place, same sizes. The boat still has a few choice dates available. See ad for details.

Charter boat **Capt. Gary** fished Chris Straukis and friends Saturday and they picked away at fluke at the back and in the inlet with Chris taking the pool. Sunday's charter for the Hicksville Fire Dept. had a fair day off Rockaway and Riis Park with the PM tide best.

It was flounder for Vinnie Balsamo and friends Saturday aboard the charter boat **Nan-Sea**. Things were slow due to poor drifting conditions, but even so, the largest fish of the day hit 3¼ lbs. Killies and fluke belly did the trick.

Sunday's charter on the **Mickey II** had Marian Papasidero and Company with a good catch of fluke in Reynolds which peaked the last hour of the flood. They worked the inlet the rest of the day and just picked away. Fifteen passengers had 56 keepers and the pool fish went 3 lbs. 13 oz. with very few throwbacks. Lots of sundials. Capt. Tony said he had a lot of good dates still open.

A good day of fluking was had by the Bob Abrams group from Manhattan aboard the **Lady J III** early in the week. Saturday's trip for Holy Name Society in Hollis had a good fluke catch off Riis Park on spearing and squid and Sunday's trip for Frank Gebhardt and crew of NYC also did fair to good fluking off Riis and at the Tin Can.

We learned from the **Freeport Boatmens Association** that the night blues aboard the **Super Spray II** have

Linda Koacj shows the 2¼ lb. flounder she caught in Jamaica Bay's Silver Hole aboard the private boat Grand Slam. Subscriber photo.

been very good with high hook ranging from 25-30 fish from 2-12 lbs. Note that the SS II is changing its bluefish schedule to 6PM-Midnight on an every night schedule. See ad for details. The Association's fluke boats worked off Riis Park for good catches as well as Jones inlet. A 4½ lber. was taken on the Fantasy. Christie Lee had big bluefish just 25 to 30 miles south of the inlet Saturday. In the Texas Tower area, yellowfin tuna and white marlin have been spotted. Blues from 35 ft. on out in the 4-10 lb. range have been trolled.

A call from Jan at **Thompson's Deli and Fishing Supplies** in **Baldwin Harbor** tells of a catch by John Eghnat on his boat Pisspot II of six out of 12 keepers, fish in the 4-5 lb. range taken between buoys 13 and 14 on spearing on a dropping tide Sunday.

In nearby **Pt. Lookout** a call fromk Capt. Ron of the **Miss Point Lookout** tells of the mainly good fluking all week in the inlet and in Reynolds. Wednesday's PM trip for 30 passengers saw over 200 keepers taken. Thursday's PM trip saw a 3 lb. pool fluke for Brian Folgenson. Saturday's AM trip had Linda Persichetti of N. Bellmore with a 4 lb. pool fluke. On Friday's PM trip, Sophia Ziegler and Laura Stegle split the pool and they also had 12 fluke between them. A passenger by the name of Linda took Saturday morning's pool. A 4 lb. pool fluke took Sunday's AM pool for Dave Eichen. Ron says it appears that a new body of fluke has moved into the inlet and they are hungrily hitting fluke belly and killie combos. The boat starts its night blue trips this Friday night at 6:30PM. See ad for details.

We hear from the charter boat **Marie III** that Wednesday's trip for Topside Bar and Grill had good fluking off Rockaway Inlet, Riis and Playland. A 4 lber. took the pool and fish averaged 6-10 keepers a man. Friday's group had bluefish SE of the HA buoy up to 15 lbs. and also a

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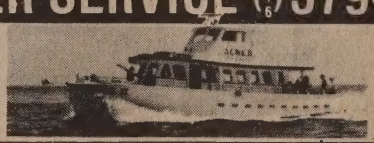

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brown shark estimated at 75 lbs. on a whole mackerel. Loads of bluefish all over the place in roughly 150 ft. of water. Saturday's trip for Group Rockaway CG Station had a fair pick of fluke in the AM at Jones and in Reynolds.

On Sunday the Double T Fishing Club worked Rockaway, Riis Park and Playland. Seven men had 150 fluke total with a 30 percent keeper ratio. Squid and smelt were the preferred bait of the day and Al Jannotta took the pool with a 5 lber. High hook honors went to Phil Delaney. The boat still has a couple of open spots for the July 2 and 4 shark trip.

From **Scotty's Fishing Station** we heard of a good weekend with lots of blues at Cholera, 250 blues were chummed and baited by Jim Cataldo, Tim Sullivan and George Carlin on the boat Horizon. These were 3-4 lbers. caught just 2 miles out of the inlet. In the bay, three good fluking friends filled four 5-gal. pails with fluke in Reynolds Channel fishing off the golf course. Rental skiffs returned with average catches of 12 to 15 keepers. Still good floundering in Jones inlet and buoys 17/19 Reynolds. Fiddlers still producing blackfish at the Meadowbrook bridge. No bccs yet.

Good fluking advised the **Capt. Bill** with high hooks on the half day trips averaging 6-10 keepers and pools going 3½ to 5 lbs. On Friday, Spencer Thomas had a 4½ lb. pool fluke in Jones Inlet. On Saturday the boat fished off Riis Park in the AM and had a good catch while it slowed down in the PM. Sand eels and spearing were the ticket and best is from half tide to the top. The boat is starting its night bluefishing Fridays and Saturdays from 6-11PM. See ad for details.

The word from **Ed's Fishing Station** is that the best fluking of the weekend was on the Middle Bay Flats. The keeper ratio is 50 percent, with spearing working best. One catch made by Benny Kozuch was 32 keepers. Flounder still a good item in Swift Creek with one boat coming back with 38 flounder to 2¾ lbs. taken from the Meadowbrook area and off the houses on worm and clam chum. Weekdays saw some decent blackfish catches at the bridge and jetty.

Out of **Island Park** the **Commodore** reported Saturday's fluking was super off Riis Park with high hook being 30 keepers and 12 keepers being the average. Weather permitting (wind velocity and direction) Riis and the Tin Can have been prime. Pools have been running in sthe 4-5 lb. class. Mostly the fish are 14 to 15 inch specimens with the warrior buoy holding fish a little bigger. Belly is best followed by spearing.

Beckmann's Tackle in **Lynbrook** sa said that the hottest news was in the increase in BCCs which reached what he called the excellent point. Best areas have been the oceanside and East Rockaway Creeks in traps, rings and nets. Charlie says he has a secret weapon for crabs which he calls the crab hotel. You can call him about it.

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Fluking still good on the black side of Ambrose best followed by the waters off Playland and the Rockaways. Throwbacks in the bay are at a 50 percent ratio with spearing, squid combos the best.

To the west, **Long Beach Sports Marina**advised that buoys 5 and 7 and the Tin Can Grounds produced the best fluking on the weekend. Jessie Salem and daughter Deborah had a tub of fluke up to 2½ lbs. at the Tin Can. Good bluefishing off Rockaway Playland in 30 ft. of water on umbrellas. Blacks fair at the AB bridge on fiddlers and green crab.

Over at **Atlantic Beach** we hear from Capt. Ron Lepper of the charter Boat **Kim** of the excellent fishing in the NY Bight, fish 1-3 lbs. Catches are mostly between Ambrose and Sandy Hook. Each day the weakfish catches are building. Bigger bluefish in the 3-7 lb. range with an occasional 10 lber. are at the Farms. These fish are both trolled and jigged. Ronnie's fares are averaging 100 lbs. of fish a man and the fish are thick. Party boats are loading up. The fluking is fair with some days hot.

From **Reynolds Reef Fishing Station** Al tells of some blackfish still being caught at either end of the AB bridge on fiddlers. Best flounder in his area at buoy 5 and in the Cedarhurst Yacht Club creeks. Blues being trolled on umbrellas in big numbers at the can, off Coney Island and from Debs to buoy 4. Fluke catches being made from the AB bridge to the inlet and at Riis Park at the warrior buoy area. George Wetherall bagged a 336 lb. mako on Barbara's Boys fishing 55 miles SE of Debs in 170 ft. of water. George was accompanied by two pals and his 2 sons Saturday. This was on 50 lb. tackle.

NEW YORK BIGHT

Skippy's Tackle in **East Rockaway** passed on the word of the catch of 40 keeper fluke taken by Eric Young and Big John on spearing Tuesday in Woodmere Bay. Fluking still rates a classification of "Good" with lots of throwbacks in the back. Cocktail blues along the beaches in 30 to 40 feet of water has been a good item and Bay Park is now nearly crawling with BCCs.

From **Howard Beach** the **Capt. Mike** told of good fluking in Jamaica Bay any time the drifting conditions were favorable. The boat has been working Gerritsen and Rockaway Inlets with a 50-50 keeper ratio. Lots of action in Jamaica Bay with fish averaging 14 to 16 inches and pool fish in the 4 lb. range each day. Best bait has been killie/squid combos followed by sand eels. One day during the week, Brian Donovan was high hook with 22 keeper fluke.

Cross Bay Bait and Tackle relates that off both North and South Channel Bridges small porgies, some blackfish and good scatterings of small blues

High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables: To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion table. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that area station above. Example: Shinnecock Inlet . . . —0 50 is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	BREAKWATER HARBOR AM	BREAKWATER HARBOR PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THURS.	—	12:05	12:25	1:00	12:15	1:05	1:10	2:00	2:45	3:15	3:00	3:30	—	12:10	6/30
FRI.	12:15	12:50	1:10	1:45	12:50	1:45	1:55	2:45	3:25	3:55	3:45	4:15	12:20	1:00	7/1
SAT.	12:55	1:35	1:55	2:35	1:30	2:20	2:45	3:35	4:10	4:40	4:30	5:00	1:10	1:50	7/2
SUN.	1:45	2:20	2:45	3:25	2:10	3:05	3:40	4:25	5:00	5:30	5:20	5:50	2:00	2:40	7/3
MON.	2:35	3:15	3:35	4:15	3:00	3:50	4:35	5:15	5:55	6:25	6:15	6:40	2:55	3:30	7/4
TUES.	3:35	4:15	4:30	5:05	3:55	4:45	5:30	6:00	6:55	7:20	7:05	7:35	3:50	4:25	7/5
WED.	4:40	5:15	5:25	6:00	5:00	5:45	6:25	6:45	7:55	8:15	8:05	8:30	4:45	5:15	7/6
THURS.	5:45	6:10	6:20	6:55	6:10	6:40	7:15	7:35	8:55	9:10	9:00	9:20	5:40	6:05	7/7

On Sandy Hook

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink River	+1 48
Long Branch	—0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking bridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Great Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 44
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNSENDS INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehobeth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 41
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Hart's Cove	+1 30
Pontunk Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville (Brown Creek)	+3 39
Heckscher State Park	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	0 00
Beach Channel Bridge	+0 38
J.F.K. Airport	+0 26

On Bridgeport

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	+0 08
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Hbr. entrance	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	+0 05
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 05
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor entrance	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford, Housatonic River	+0 27
Shelton, Housatonic River	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor entrance	—0 03
Saugatuck River entrance	—0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On New London

Orient	+0 36
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Three Mi. Hbr., Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land, Napeague Bay	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point, north side	—1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington, Fishers Is. Sound	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River ent.	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove entrance	—0 01
Norwich	+0 12
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook Jetty	+1 10
Lyme, highway bridge	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On Willets Point

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On Breakwater Harbor

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+0 17
East Pt., Maurice River Cove	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River entrance	+0 33

On New York

Jersey City	+0 07
George Washington Bridge	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil, W/RR bridge	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburgh	+3 42

On Newport

Sakonnet	—1 10
Tiverton (between bridges)	+0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Point	+1 10
Bristol	+1 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayatt Point	+0 12
Pawtucket, Seekonk River	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Hbr. of Refuge	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Block Island (Old Harbor)	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 6/30	5:27	8:40
FRI. 7/1	5:28	8:40
SAT. 7/2	5:28	8:40
SUN. 7/3	5:29	8:40
MON. 7/4	5:29	8:40
TUE. 7/5	5:30	8:39
WED. 7/6	5:30	8:39

Moonrise/Moonset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 6/30	—	10:10AM
FRI. 7/1	12:05AM	11:10AM
SAT. 7/2	12:31AM	12:10PM
SUN. 7/3	12:55AM	1:11PM
MON. 7/4	1:19AM	2:14PM
TUE. 7/5	1:45AM	3:19PM
WED. 7/6	2:14AM	4:28PM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.
7/10	7/17	7/24	7/3

The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES

The schedule of solunar periods below will help plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during the time when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold typeface. The minor periods are shorter in duration and the lighter typeface.

	AM		PM	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Thurs.	9:45	3:35	10:10	3:55
Fri.	10:30	4:20	10:55	4:40
Sat.	11:20	5:10	11:45	5:30
Sun.	—	5:55	12:05	6:15
Mon.	12:30	6:30	12:40	6:55
Tues.	1:10	7:10	1:20	7:35
Wed.	1:50	7:55	2:05	8:20
Thurs.	2:35	8:45	2:55	9:15

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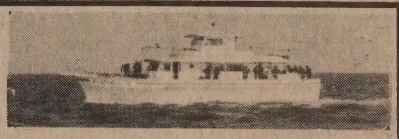

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Lillian Squatriglia and Declan Grant shared the pool on a recent trip aboard the City Island open boat, "Ebb Tide III," with these two husky blackfish.

are being taken. Boat fishermen are doing nicely on fluke at Silver Hole.

To the west in **Sheepshead Bay,** Capt. Mike Brumm of the charter boat **Daybreaker** reports that his groups are getting loads of blues from the Farms/SE of Klondike, fish in the 2-4 lb. range with a few to 8 lbs. Catches are very good on diamond jigs once the fish have been located by trolling umbrellas. A few bass are being caught using worms and Nordic eels a the Tin Can and off the Jersey coast. Weakfishing should explode all at once at any time. Every PM there are plenty of blues from the Coney Island flats/east of Rockway point, but this action is not there in the AM. Blues have been appearing at Highlands in the AM.

Captain Tom of the **Elsie K III** tells of pretty good fluke action all week at the channels and off the Highlands. High hooks are in the 20s each day except for Saturday which was slow due to the winds. Sunday bounced back again and the pool was in the 4 lb. class. Very few throwbacks. Tom is adding 5PM blues, weaks and stripers on Wednesday and Saturday nights. See ad for details.

The **Pilot II** had a huge sea bass catch Sunday with some ling as well. During the week fares had good shots at porgies, but not everyday, results based on a precise water temp needed. The PM bluefish trips have been doing super said Tom to the tune of 30-40 fish a man in the 2-3 lb. range.

Captain Butch's **Zephyr** has been having good consistent fluking. On Tuesday there were five fluke in the 5 lb. range and 6 on Wednesday. Saturday was the only slow day but Sunday things bounced back even through the slack. Sizes of fish are good as well. The Sandy Hook area has been extremely productive. A 26 lb. sturgeon was caught Wednesday b by brooklyn angler Frank DeStefano on a fluke belly. Best fluke action is at both sides of Ambrose, Sandy Hook, Tin Can and Rockaways. We're talking a big body of fish.

Neil at **Stella Maris Tackle** was impressed with the number of bluefish around off Tin Can, Coney Island and Seabright. Monster blues offshore for the open boat fleet to 15 lbs. at Acid Waters. Solid fluke catches in Jamaica Bay, Riis Park and the Rockaways with a 80 percent keeper ratio on sand eel, spearing and squid.

We hear from **Santo's Sport Shop** in **Staten Island** of some bass action at South Beach, Ft. Wadsworth, Cliff street, Penny Beach and piers 13 and 17. Things started Thursday and fish are small schoolies through teen fish hitting bait and plugs, averaging 3-6 lbs., outgoing tide, day and night. Fluke are being caught on a 50 percent keeper ratio at the Berger Ave. storm sewer, the jetties at Great Kills Park and Princess Bay. In Great Kills harbor, small weaks are hitting small Hopkins and small Kastmasteers. Small blues off Great Kills park. BCCs building. Some tommycod, eels

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North Shore REPORT
with Marty Garrell

Saturday's gale put an end to a week of fine bottom fishing in most of the area and Sunday's pick on the party boats indicated that a day or two will be required for waters to settle. Bluefish are slowly working their way into the Sound and fluke results are surprisingly good this early. Some blackfish and flounder fishing still holds on.

WESTERN SOUND

John DiCuffa at **Jack's Bait** on **City Island** described some wild flurries on school bass in evenings around Hart's and High Island, Prospect Point and Sands Point. Worm trollers were pulling fish to 7 lbs.

John's Gun in **New Rochelle** said that overnight bass action has been quite good for fish of schoolie sizes with a few larger bass to 24 lbs. mixed in. Troller and anglers chumming clam bellies had their innings. Blackfish are still the best bet on the bottom.

The **Apache** from **City Island** had a pick of big flounder in the 1½ lb. class plus scattered blackfish from the NorwalK area of the Sound. Bags were generally 10-12 flatfish per person and sand worms were the exclusive bait. Dom Cerbone says that larger fish are taken at anchor, but catches are somewhat better in numbers when the boat can drift. Action should be improving.

The **Klondike VIII** from **New Rochelle** hit blues in the 2-6 lb. class

Some of the many blacks taken on a recent trip near Eaton's Neck aboard the open boat "Ever Ready II."

off Smithtown last Friday and will be switching to choppers this Thursday after meager bottom fishing over the weekend.

Joe Ferrara of the **Ebb Tide III** from **City Island** spent much of the weekend doing rescue work. In Saturday's blow, the boat pulled two fishermen out of the water near Norwalk after they had been floating for 1½ hours when their 16 footer swamped. Unfortunately, the third angler in that group drowned. On Sunday, the Ebb Tide picked up another pair from the Sound after their Hobey Cat flipped and could not be righted. Ferrara will be switching to bluefish on Wednesday.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

George Valentine at the **4 Winds** saw some of the largest tautog of the season last week. He weighed a 10.14 lb. fish for Hank Dam, Jr. and an 8.12 black for James Neil. A lot of 4-5 lb. fish were in the catch. There was some action on scattered bass and a very rare weakfish or two but the man hours required per fish were enormous. Plugs caught a few fish off Sunken Meadow and Makamah, and Don Urbanski trolled 16 lb. 14 oz. linesider on worms. Valentine told us that 50-100 man hours per fish were normal, but he does expect bluefish by next week. Al Mott weighed in a bunker-caught 13¼ lb. slammer.

From **Ronnie's Tackle Shop**, we learned that Ronnie and his sons Ron Jr. and Chris worm trolled 5 bass in the 5-10 lb. class along with a 34 lber. Justice prevailed as dad got the cow!

The Cedars at **Huntington Prop** had a quiet week but advised that there were still tautog off Makamah and Callahans. A few bluefish had been taken off the Golf Course and east of Lilco. Jim Wulfust put a 51½ lb. cow bass on the scales; the fish took a live bunker.

Tom Bowman at **Bowman's** in **Northport** figures that the huge amount of bait in the water has dulled the fishing. With a lot of effort those who fish 5PM to 8AM will find a few blues, weaks and bass. One 15 lb. bass came from the area just outside the CG station. Blackfish and flounder are on the decline but porgies are showing in deep water.

Lori Morrison, all the way fromk Grand Junction, Colorado, jigged the first bluefish of the season, a 6 lb. chopper, on Pack Collins' **Ever Ready**. Packy told us that the fish were northeast of the Oil Dock late last week and that 8-10 blues per person were the norm on fish in the 2-6 lb. class. The **Broker** did report a 13½ lb. fish from the same area that night. Sunday's blackfishing slumped to 5-6 fish per person after a rough Saturday off Eaton's. The largest tautog were 6-8 lbs. By Wednesday, Packy will be switching to bluefish with a 7AM sailing time. He advises that there will be no Monday daytime trips until after August 15 when his town charters are finished.

Sutler's in **Port Jefferson** reported some early action on fluke off the Pink House with a few porgies off Buoy 11. **Ralph's Fishing Station** in **Mount Sinai** said that most of the fluke along the beaches were 2 lbs. and up and that the usual sand eel/squid combination worked best. Blackfish were now on and off.

Ever optimistic, Ken Freeman at the **Angler's Den** in **Selden** was talking weakfish up to 13 lbs. A few tiderunners have been taken from the surf around Miller Place with some action starting around buoy 11. Freeman says to watch for the news release on the Weakfish Tournament early next month and to call him for information.

NORTH FORK

Warren's in **Aquebogue** reported a catch of 30 summer weakfish from Great Peconic Bay between the Canal and Robin's Island (rather general!) and said that fluking on the Sound had picked up at Mattituck Inlet, Horton's and even Truman's.

Friday was a good day at **Captain Marty's** in **New Suffolk** with mixed porgy sizes and good numbers around buoy 18 and the Middle Grounds. Summer weakfish were common in catches and blowfish were also plentiful although small.

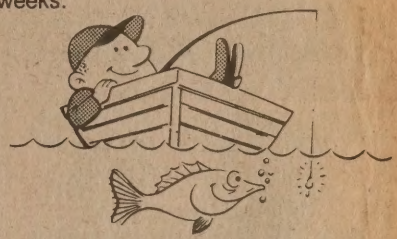
Jim Dunkirk at the **Port of Egypt** said that most of the school weakfish were between buoy 10 and Jessup's with hi-lo rigs the standard for success. Between buoy 18 and the Steps, porgies were plentiful, and there were fluke off Greenlawns and the Brickyard and from Dering Harbor to Hay Beach. Loads of little cocktail bluefish were roaming the Peconics as well.

On the Sound most boats spent Saturday up on the beach and the Port of Egypt lost three boats and a couple of motors in the sudden blow. There were porgies in front of the Station, however. Fluke to 8 lbs. were weighed at the Mattituck Inlet Station last week and the body of fish could be found anywhere from the inlet to the Motel. Porgies were expected momentarily and blackfishing was on the decline. There were still some tautog, however, off the Firing Range.

Art White, at the **A.P. White Bait Shop** in **Greenport** said that porgy fishing was pretty good until the blow with the **Brand X** and the **Peconic Star** filling on fish off Gardiner's and on the Sound. Bluefish action in the Bay was still hot, and those who wanted a crack at weakfish should try drifting the deep channel between Hay Beach and the jetty with bucktails on incoming. White weighed a 10½ lb. tiderunner last week.

John Rainis was still on flounder and blackfish with the **Blue Albatross** from **Greenport**. A 5½ lb. tautog took Saturday's pool. This bottom fishing was very consistent before the blow.

However, the hottest scene on the North Fork has been the fluking on the eastern Sound with fish to 4 lbs. and a few all the way to 6-7½ lbs. in 20-30 ft. of water. Richie Jensen of the **Nancy Ann** had 175 fish to 4 lbs. on Sunday with sand eel/fluke belly or sand eel/sauid combinations. Larry Ciccotto of the **Prime Time II** began fishing for fluke on Thursday and watched things break loose on Sunday. He said that 5-10 fish person is the norm and that 3 oz. sinkers will work although most use 5-6 in various rips. His best fish of the week went 7½ lbs. and he noted that sea bass to 2 lbs. were mixed with the summer flounder. Jensen of the Nancy Ann feels that this is the best early fluking he's seen, and he mentioned that he still has some weekday charters available during the next couple of weeks.



Surf REPORT *with Fred Golofaro*

Surf reports this week were a bit tough to come by, but we were able to scrape together enough info to cover a good portion of the Island. No real outstanding news to report and those big stripers that showed up in last week's report were strangely absent from this week's phoning.

Small bluefish provided flurries of action mornings and evenings at the Sore Thumb and inside of Fire Island Inlet. Two to three pound choppers were also spread along the ocean beach between Parking Field 2, Robert Moses and Democrat on a couple of occasions last week. One reliable source indicated that a couple of large stripers had been taken from the Sore Thumb after dark on jointed RedFins.

Over at **Captree Bait Station** Noel Kappauf had only one surf catch to report from this past week. Jim Hoey checked in a 7.4 lb. weakfish that he took Saturday at Oak Beach. Noel knew that small blues continue to come and go along area beaches but he had no word on any bass activity.

Over at **J&J Tackle** in **Patchogue**, George Ruland spoke of a few bass in

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the teens taken down around Moriches Inlet this past week on Rebels and RedFins this past week. Still plenty of small blues keeping casters busy from the jetties at Moriches and Shinnecock Inlets and along the beach between Smith Point Pavilion and Moriches Inlet.

Southampton Town Beach produced a good number of blues up to 5 lbs. on tin according to Thom Speckenbach of **Speck's Tackle Shop.** Thom also supported George's report that the inlet jetties continue to produce good numbers of small blues. Thom had no word on any bass taken from the beach on this past weekend's full moon.

Long Beach, which is located along the Noyac shore, has had some good flurries of 2-4 lb. blues on tin according to Chris Salb of **Bayview Marine** in **Sag Harbor.** Chris said that small Hopkins have been favored by most casters working the area.

Working our way out to **Montauk**, Johnny Kronuch of **Johnny's Tackle Shop** spoke of a quiet week at the Point with no bass or weakfish activity and a downturn in the number of small blues which had been a regular event mornings and evenings. Plenty of bait remains on the beach and with a good tide shaping up towards the weekend, John took a let's see what happens attitude.

Up on the north shore, the story in several areas seems to be that there are a mixture of bass, weaks and bluefish present, often in good numbers, but the fish have been very difficult to catch. A few bass are being picked along beaches in the Bayville, Huntington, Northport and Rocky Point areas but they are few at best.

Ronnie of **Ronnie's Tackle Shop** in **Huntington** knew of a couple of 10 lb. bass taken along the Cold Spring Harbor Causeway on worms and a handful of small blues taken from Makamah. He also had several customers report seeing plenty of fish at Caumsett this week, but no one was able to do anything with them. Most thought they were primarily weakfish with a few bass mixed in.

To the east, Stan Henschel said that they finally enjoyed some bass action along local beaches this past week with some school bass being taken between dusk and dawn on Rebels and RedFins. Two to four pound blues continue to put in early AM and evening appearances in the area, but the weakfishing has yet to get off the ground.

Most knowledgeable surfmen feel that there is a good body of weakfish along the Sound shore and expect the fish will take hold within the next week or so. Let's hope so.

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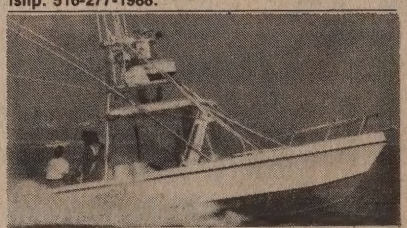

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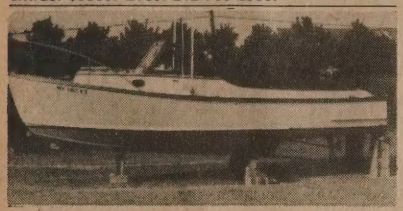
1980 26' MANNINO Sharpie, 155 hp, V-6, 2:1 trans. Great for commercial or sportfishing. Many extras. $9500. Eves: 212-763-2966.



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20' EASTPORTER Lobster boat, 70 hp Evinrude, Shoreline E-Z Loader trlr. All 1980. DF, CB, VHF, etc. Mint. $7800. 516-661-9363.

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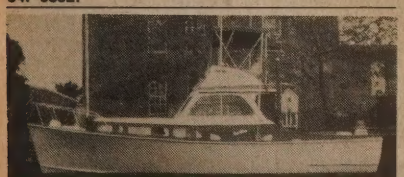

33' BOOTHBAY, Twin 225 Mercruisers, Ross recorder, VHF, CB, Constavolt, outriggers, downriggers, dual stations. Clean; fast; comfortable. 283-8869 Days. 288-3453 Eves.

AQUASPORT 22, 2 SF 1978 175 hp Johnson. Power tilt & trim, canvas & cushions, electronics. Many extras. $8000. 516-981-7321.

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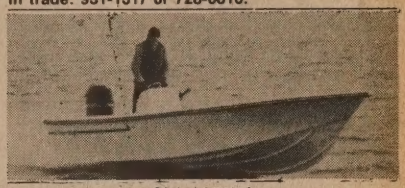
23' CHRIS CRAFT 1979 Sportfish w/Pipewelders Marlin Tower. Dual controls, full enclosure, Bimini top, compass, radio, depthfinder & more. Ready to fish. $11,000. Will consider smaller center console in trade. 931-1317 or 728-0816.



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18' Stieger Craft, 50 hp Mercury elec. start. 21 Model also avail. Commercial & pleasure models. STRONG'S MARINE LAND, Rt. 25, Mattituck. 516-298-4020.

1974 CHRIS CRAFT 25' Tournament Fisherman, 10' beam, twin 130 hp Chris Craft I/B, tuna tower, Bennett T/T, auto anchor, engine synchronizers, Si-Tex recorder, Lowrance blue water flasher, CB, VHF, RDF, gauges, compass, cabin, legal head, outriggers, rod holders, SW washdown, CG safety equip. Bait station w/FW sink, large cockpit. Many extras. $13,900. Dave: 212-626-7547.

1983 20' MANNINO Sharpie center console. 1980 80 hp Mariner O/B. Will demonstrate. $7000. 888-7144.

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300 Chrysler manifolds, Ross dual recorder, Chris Craft 427 FWC block, 289 cu. in. 185 hp Waukesha complete FWC engine. Evinrude 115 block; 6 cylinder Mercedes diesel, 100 hp. Almost new. Choice of gears. Call Tom 728-4220. Days.

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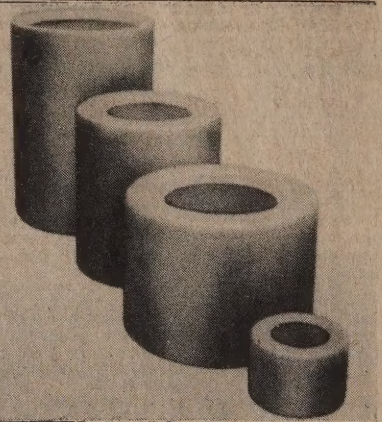

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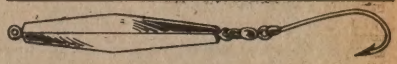

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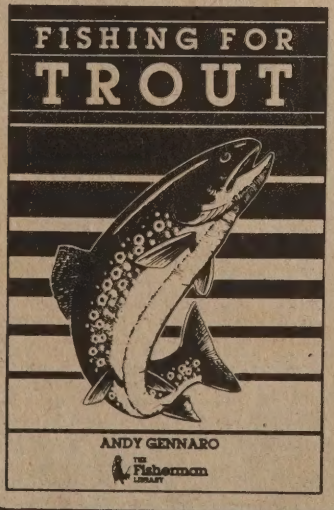

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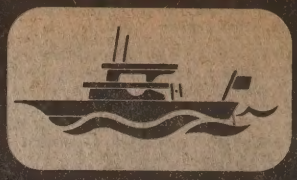

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(516) 422-3300
Friday until 9 P.M.

Established 1932